PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2011

COMPRISING PERIOD
10 January 2011—21 January 2011

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HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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Minister for Equalities—Lynne Featherstone, MP §

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Comptroller and Auditor General—Amyas Morse
Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman—Ann Abraham

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 10 January 2011

TREASURY

Financial Assistance for Ireland

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses copies of the agreement providing a credit facility to Ireland of £3,226,960,000. This agreement was negotiated between HM Treasury and Ireland and signed on the 22 December following enactment of the Loans to Ireland Act, which received Royal Assent on 21 December 2010.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Work of the Department During Recess

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): I would like to update hon. Members on the main items of business undertaken by my Department since the House rose on Tuesday 21 December 2010.

Community Rights

The Department has recognised the important role pubs and clubs can play at the centre of the local community. On 30 December we announced a review of restrictive covenants preventing precious community pubs reopening again as public houses or entertainment venues. This review is in line with the Department's commitment to cutting red tape and devolving real power to local communities. By changing the use of restrictive covenants communities will have greater opportunity to use the community right to buy powers to take over local pubs if they come up for sale and ensure important hubs of community life remain open.

Transparency

Six months ago I wrote to all councils calling on them to throw open their files to make local government spending more transparent and show waste is being eradicated. Councils need to show they have done everything possible to reduce waste and duplication to save taxpayers' money and protect front-line services.

The Department continues in its drive for open and transparent government, and on 1 January issued a new year's reminder to local authorities that they are expected to publish their spending data over £500 online by the end of January 2011 in accessible formats. Over 180 councils have already shown their commitment to democratic accountability and rooting out waste by opening their books for public scrutiny ahead of the deadline. This includes publishing details of senior pay, councillor expenses, minutes of meetings, and any useful front-line service data of interest to residents or entrepreneurs.

Removing parking restrictions from national planning policy

We trust councils and communities to know what is best for their local area and we are continuing to devolve greater powers to enable them to act on their own.

On 3 January in conjunction with the Secretary of State for the Department of Transport, we removed national planning guidance that required councils to limit the number of parking spaces allowed in new residential developments and to set higher parking charges to encourage use of other forms of transport. Councils and communities are now free to set parking policies that are the best fit for their local area and for residents. These changes to planning policy will allow councils to set competitive local parking charges to promote town centres and attract shoppers to the high street. Councils will also be able to decide the right number of parking spaces for new residential development, helping to alleviate the problems of on-street parking congestion.

The Government recognise that for many people cars are a lifeline and we want to make it easier for motorists to make greener choices. Alongside steps already taken by the Department for Transport, we also outlined more support for drivers of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. On 3 January, we announced our intention to allow charging points to be built on streets and in outdoor car parks without the need for planning permission, removing bureaucracy and ensuring that making a green choice does not mean making a less convenient choice. We have also urged councils to follow this lead and promote electric vehicle charging points in new developments.

Delivering Services

The combination of severe snow and the festive break created a major headache for many councils and I pay tribute to the refuse collectors and other staff that have braved severe conditions to make their rounds. None the less it is clear that there has been widespread public concern at the extent of the disruption to collections in some local authority areas. On 4 January my ministerial colleague, the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) wrote to all council leaders to stress the importance of delivering high quality waste and recycling services that meet local needs. The Government stand ready to work with the Local Government Association councils and DEFRA to ensure this happens.

Predetermination

Councillors play a vital role in the local community and they should be free to be able to act in the best interest of the people they are elected to serve. On 4 January the Department highlighted the restrictions placed upon them under so-called "predetermination" rules, preventing them taking part in decision on which they have campaigned or expressed a predisposed view. Under a measure contained in the Localism Bill these restrictions will be amended to give councillors the powers to champion the needs of local residents.

Delivering more homes

On 5 January my ministerial colleague, the Minister for Housing and Local Government, set out our intention to develop an action plan to boost the number of self-builders across the country—and address the common barriers aspiring self-builders face, including availability of land, finance and expert advice. The self-build sector is already important to growth and housing supply—with self-builders completing as many as 10,000 building projects each year—so making it easier for more people to build their own home will provide a welcome boost to the housing market.

On 7 January I introduced new safeguards to restrict the use of Empty Dwelling Management Orders. These heavy-handed rules, which were introduced in 2006, mean people who leave their house empty for more than six months risk having it confiscated. Homes at risk do not have to be blighted or boarded up and can be taken over even if they are already on the property market, if councils believe the asking price is "unrealistic".

I am concerned that there is a risk that councils could use the orders inappropriately to instigate action against homeowners in vulnerable situations. It is wrong that a bereaved family could face having their loved one's home taken over for a period if there is a delay in them deciding what to do with it.

So I am limiting use of the orders to empty properties that have become magnets for vandalism, squatters and other forms of antisocial behaviour. A property will also have to stand empty for at least two years before an order can be obtained, and property owners will have to be given at least three months notice before the order can be issued. These new safeguards will ensure that responsible homeowners do not face having their properties seized.

DEFENCE

Midlands Medical Accommodation Project - Phase 2

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): The Midlands Medical Accommodation (MMA) project aims to create, by March 2014, a new community of excellence—clinical, research and training at the Defence Medical Services establishments of Whittington near Lichfield and in Birmingham, both located in the west midlands. The project will be delivered in three phases of incremental acquisition, of which increment 1 is complete. I am pleased to say that the funding for increment 2 is now in place, and a contract for the associated work has been awarded to Carillion plc, subject to conditions precedent.

> Increment 1 has already delivered a modern headquarters office building in which the Surgeon General's strategic headquarters and the headquarters of the Joint Medical Command are now collocated and fully operational;
>
> Increment 2 will create a modern training centre. This will include new training facilities; a new learning centre; a new lecture theatre; new messes for officers and for warrant officers and senior non-commissioned officers; service living accommodation for officers (permanent staff) and a new junior ranks' dining and leisure facility. These will replace the existing facilities at Keogh barracks which would require levels of investment that compare unfavourably with those of the project; and
>
> Increment 3, running along side increment 2, will provide modern single living accommodation. This is part of the ongoing upgrade programme approved under project SLAM.

The MMA project will draw together the currently dispersed components of the Defence Medical Services. The foundation of a close geographic community around Lichfield and Birmingham will encourage long-term life and career choices, particularly about stability, housing and education. This community will become a central and enduring feature in the life of the Defence Medical Services. It will be a firm base from which to exploit and sustain progress in military medicine, and a community providing respite from the intense demands of operational service. The Midlands Medical Accommodation project lays the foundation of a cohesive community of excellence and fellowship that will meet, with confidence, the strategic imperative to deliver military health care.

HEALTH

NHS South West

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): On 17 June 2010, I asked Sir David Nicholson, chief executive of the NHS in England, to initiate a review into the approach and behaviour of the NHS South West (the strategic health authority) in relation to Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust (RCHT), in particular, to the dismissal of John Watkinson and, by association, the trust's position in relation to the provision of upper gastro-intestinal services in Cornwall.

Verita, a specialist company that conducts independent investigations, reviews and inquiries, carried out the review. The report was published on the Department of Health website on Tuesday 4 January 2011.

In the written ministerial statement of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 57WS, I committed to updating the House on the findings of the report and my response. The key findings of the report were:

> the strategic health authority put appropriate pressure on the RCHT board to suspend John Watkinson but was not involved in the decision to dismiss him;
>
> the strategic health authority was justifiably concerned about many aspects of RCHT's performance in the period leading up to the RCHT board's dismissal of John Watkinson;
>
> the RCHT chair and non-executive directors were relatively inexperienced within the NHS and it was good practice for them to take advice from the more experienced strategic health authority before making their own decision what to do; and
>
> NHS South West is considered to have acted appropriately given its performance management responsibilities for NHS organisations in the south west and the fact that RCHT was not a foundation trust.

The report has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

Seasonal Influenza Update

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): Seasonal flu virus circulates each year and this year is no exception. This statement is to update Parliament following developments during recess.

Seasonal flu is different from the outbreak of pandemic flu in 2009, when a new flu virus emerged (H1N1, or "swine flu") against which humans (particularly those aged under 65) had little or no natural immunity. When the pandemic flu virus emerged in 2009, our pandemic preparedness plans were triggered. These plans entailed the mass distribution of "antiviral" drugs, the launch of the "National Flu Line", and a "Catch it. Bin it. Kill it" advertising campaign designed to help members of the public understand how they could limit the spread of flu.

There is no flu pandemic this year, so these plans have not been triggered. Although the H1N1 virus is circulating, it is now one of the seasonal flu strains. This is because when it circulated in 2009-10, it helped to establish a residual level of immunity in people exposed to it, which means that H1N1 now circulates like other seasonal flu viruses.

In the United Kingdom, the H1N1 and influenza B viruses are the strains of flu that are circulating widely. H1N1 is the predominant virus, and is behaving—as expected—as it did in 2009-10. This means that H1N1 is likely to infect younger people—particularly those with underlying disease—and pregnant women.

A seasonal flu vaccine is available this year, as in previous years. This vaccine protects against all three strains of flu which the World Health Organisation identified would be most likely to circulate this year. Surveillance data show that these strains are circulating and that the vaccine is a good match.

General practitioners (GPs) order seasonal flu vaccine direct from the manufacturers according to their needs. This system is different from the childhood vaccination programme where the Department procures vaccine centrally and distributes it free of charge to the NHS.

We are aware of some reports of flu vaccine supply issues in some areas in England. We are working with NHS at the local level to ensure available supplies of surplus vaccine are moved to where they are needed. If efforts to source seasonal flu vaccine locally are not successful, the H1N1 monovalent vaccine (Pandemrix) is now available to GPs, for patients who are eligible for the seasonal flu vaccine.

I have already agreed for a review of procurement options of the seasonal flu vaccine to be undertaken, including central procurement, although no decisions have yet been made.

As in previous years, and on the basis of procedures which have existed for decades, the Government take expert advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). This year, as last year, the JCVI advised that those aged 65 and over, and those in clinical at-risk groups, should be vaccinated. Because of the specific characteristic of the H1N1 virus, the JCVI also advised for the first time that healthy, pregnant women should be vaccinated with seasonal flu vaccine. The JCVI has recently assured me that this advice is appropriate for this year's flu season.

As in previous years, only certain groups are being targeted for vaccination. We have therefore focused our efforts on ensuring that these groups are vaccinated. Current information for vaccinations given up to 2 January 2011 shows that 70.0% of over 65s have been vaccinated and 45.4% of those in clinical at-risk groups have been vaccinated, which is broadly in line with previous years.

The latest data indicate that the rate of GP consultations for influenza-like illness (ILI) is currently 98 per 100,000 people but we need to be cautious about interpreting the data due to the holiday period. The highest recorded level this year was 124 per 100,000, which is lower than that recorded during the pandemic in 2009-10 and below the epidemic level of 200 per 100,000 people. Nevertheless, given that they reached these levels I have taken the decision to reinstate the "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it" campaign.

Data indicate that this year's flu has resulted in greater than usual numbers of patients requiring critical care. These patients have largely been infected with H1N1, and the pattern is consistent with H1N1's characteristics last year. As a result, where necessary, local NHS organisations have increased their critical care capacity, in part by delaying routine operations requiring critical care back-up. This is a normal operational process which is initiated by NHS organisations at the local level; critical care capacity is not "fixed" but is always able to flex in this way according to local need.

In addition, over the last month we have increased the number of so-called "ECMO" beds—for patients with the most severe disease—from 5 to 22.

The number of deaths this winter from flu verified by the Health Protection Agency currently is 50, with 45 of these being associated with the H1N1 infection. The number of deaths from seasonal flu varies each year, with over 10,000 deaths from seasonal flu estimated in the winter of 2008-09.

Some have queried why statistics for the number of deaths in pregnant women are not available. The only reason the Health Protection Agency has not published the breakdown is to protect those individuals from being personally identifiable, the number of such cases being small.

When influenza is circulating, antiviral medicines can also help clinical at-risk groups who have either been exposed to or have contracted a flu-like illness. This season we notified clinicians that the use of antiviral medicines in these groups was justified, but also, as a higher than normal number of patients outside the clinical at-risk groups were becoming seriously ill with flu, general practitioners (and other prescribers) were recommended to exercise their clinical discretion so that any patient who they feel is at serious risk of developing complications from influenza may receive antiviral treatments on the NHS. In response, demand for these medicines continued to rise.

We have taken prompt action to ensure that all patients have access to appropriate antiviral medicines when they need them, and there is no shortage of antiviral medicines in the country.

There is always more pressure on the NHS during the winter, but the NHS is well-prepared and is coping well. In summary, we are taking the following action:

> the first line of defence against flu is vaccination, and we want to see vaccination rates increase still further. That is why we are currently working with the BMA and RCGP to ensure everyone in an at-risk group who has not been vaccinated contacts their GP and books an appointment;
>
> the second line of defence is to practice good respiratory and hand hygiene. That is why we reinstated the Catch it, Bin it, Kill it campaign. In addition, and in advance of the new school term, we are encouraging parents to educate their children to use good hand and respiratory hygiene; and

the third line of defence is a well-prepared NHS with the ability to treat those who do need help. That is why we are working with local NHS organisation to help them escalate critical care capacity where necessary, and have increased the number of ECMO beds available for patients.

We are making available a range of winter performance information publicly available. This is published on the Winterwatch section of the Department's website at: http://winterwatch.dh.gov.uk/.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Public Order Incident (Royal Car, 9 December 2010)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): On 13 December 2010, I made a statement to Parliament about the acts of serious public disorder which took place in central London on 9 December and how these had been policed. In that statement I referred to the appalling attack on the car carrying Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. I informed the House that the Commissioner of the Metropolitan police had ordered a review of the policing arrangements in place on that evening, which would report by 17 December 2010 but warned that, for security reasons, the public details of the review might be limited.

The review was completed on 17 December and I have considered its content and recommendations in consultation with senior officers of the Metropolitan police. Although it is not possible to disclose the details for reasons of security, the overarching recommendations relate to operational planning and the co-ordination of personal protection and public order policing. A number of recommended changes were put in place immediately and are already proving to be effective, and the Metropolitan police is continuing to work with the Home Office and royal household to implement the remainder of the recommendations.

While important lessons have been learned from this shocking incident, the findings and recommendations must be seen in the context of the provision of protection for the royal family that has an enviable record over many years. Such protection always has to take into account the royal family's desire to be seen by and to be close to the public.

The most significant area of learning from the incident of 9 December is the need to look beyond the available intelligence to take a broader view of threats that can reasonably be anticipated in the circumstances, and to adapt plans accordingly. I am confident that this will be firmly embedded in future arrangements.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health and Malaria Outcomes (Developing World)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): My Department has finalised two frameworks for results, which set out the UK Government's contribution towards improving reproductive, maternal and newborn health outcomes and malaria outcomes in the developing world.

> "Choices for women: Planned pregnancies, safe births and healthy newborns—the UK's Framework for Results for improving reproductive, maternal and newborn health in the developing world"; and
>
> "Breaking the Cycle: Saving Lives and Protecting the Future—the UK's Framework for Results for malaria in the developing world"

Both frameworks for results are available on the Department's website (www.dfid.gov.uk). I will arrange for copies of both of the frameworks to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

JUSTICE

Civil Law Reform Bill

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): The Government have decided not to proceed with the proposed Civil Law Reform Bill, which was published for pre-legislative scrutiny and public consultation in December 2009. The Government are grateful to the Justice Committee for its scrutiny of the draft Bill and to everyone who replied to the consultation for their comments, but in the present financial situation we need to focus our resources on delivering our key priorities.

Several of the provisions in the Civil Law Reform Bill were derived from Law Commission reports. The damages provisions were derived from the following reports published in the late 1990s: "Claims for Wrongful Death" (Law Com No 263); "Damages for Personal Injury: Medical, Nursing and Other Expenses; Collateral Benefits" (Law Com No 262); and "Aggravated, Exemplary and Restitutionary Damages" (Law Com No 247). The provisions relating to interest derived in part from the Commission's 2004 report "Pre-judgment Interest on Debts and Damages" (Law Com No 295). These reforms will not now be taken forward.

I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses copies of my letter to the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Sir Alan Beith), Chairman of the Justice Committee, informing him of the Government's decision, and the response document to the consultation.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 11 January 2011

TREASURY

PAYE Update

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): I am now able to give the House a report on HMRC's progress in resolving the issues on which I made a statement on 8 September 2010. Lesley Strathie, chief executive of HMRC, will be writing to the Public Accounts Committee and Treasury Select Committee separately today.

HMRC have been working hard to clear the long-standing backlogs of unreconciled tax cases.

Since September they have made rapid progress on working through the nearly 6 million adjustments needed to ensure that the correct amount of tax is collected for the tax years 2008-09 and 2009-10. By the end of last year in 90 % of cases where HMRC had received all relevant information, customers had received a refund notice or a calculation of overpayment in respect of these years.

In cases where an underpayment was due HMRC have sought to take a flexible and sympathetic approach to collecting the tax that is due. In the minority of cases where the unexpected bill has been caused by HMRC's failure to act promptly on the information received, HMRC have considered claims to be written off under an existing concession (ESC A19).

In addition:

HMRC estimate that there are about 250,000 cases in respect of 2008-09 and 2009-10 where a taxable state pension has been paid by DWP and the tax due on this pension should have been collected through a tax code adjustment. These pensioners have not yet been issued with a notice of underpayment but would have a strong case for their underpayment to be written off in line with the concession. HMRC will not require these pensioners to claim the concession individually, but will instead write off all the relevant underpayments.

HMRC are working to clear the backlog of cases from earlier years. They will work all cases where a taxpayer is due a repayment for earlier years.

Further underpayment notices will not be issued for years earlier than 2007-08. For 2007-08, where possible, any amounts due will be included in the tax code for 2011-12 so that the money is collected over the course of the year through PAYE. HMRC will apply the same treatment to these cases as to those for 2008-09 and 2009-10. HMRC will not be collecting sums for less than £300 for that year and will allow people to spread payments in cases of hardship. Taking these concessions into account, HMRC expect to be in touch with around 450,000 people before the end of March to collect underpayments to the value of some £180 million.

The annual exercise to set tax codes for the 2011-12 tax year is about to begin. HMRC have reviewed the experience of last year when transitional issues with the new system led to some taxpayers receiving incorrect tax code notifications, and have conducted extensive additional testing designed to prevent a recurrence of these issues this year.

HMRC are continuing the process of modernising PAYE for the 21st century through the introduction of Real Time Information (RTI). This will help reduce the need for reconciliations in the future.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

December Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The Deputy Permanent Representative, Andy Lebrecht, represented the United Kingdom at the Environment Council on 20 December in Brussels. I was unable to attend due to severe weather disrupting travel between the United Kingdom and Belgium.

The Council reached political agreement on the regulation concerning the placing on the market of biocidal products. The UK welcomed the political agreement as a risk-based compromise which strikes the right balance between protecting health and environment from the biocides themselves but also from the harmful organisms that biocides are used to control.

The Belgian presidency presented the outcome of the third trilogue with the European Parliament on the regulation setting emission performance standards for new light commercial vehicles, as part of the EU's integrated approach to reduce CO_2 emissions from light-duty vehicles. During the exchange of views that followed Environment Ministers indicated their support for the compromise that had been reached, including the long-term target of average CO_2 emissions of 147 grams per kilometre in 2020. The European Parliament is expected to vote on the proposal at its February plenary session.

The Council also adopted conclusions that welcomed the outcome of the Nagoya meeting of the convention on biodiversity in October, and committed the EU to implementation of the decisions taken.

Further conclusions were adopted on improving environmental policy instruments. Several member states expressed the importance they attach to having a seventh environment action programme to succeed the current one which covers the period up to 2012. The UK stressed the need for the new framework to be based on an assessment of the current sixth environment action programme, and highlighted the move to an environmentally sustainable, low-carbon, resource-efficient economy as a key challenge to be addressed. This could be achieved through focus on: integration of sustainability objectives in other policy areas; better implementation of existing legislation rather than new initiatives; and more involvement of society, incentivising and motivating behaviour change.

The Council also adopted a third set of conclusions, on sustainable materials management and sustainable production and consumption.

The Council took note of the presidency's progress reports on the recast directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and on the proposal for a regulation regarding the possibility for member states to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory. The discussion on GMOs followed similar lines to the earlier discussion at Environment Council in October 2010, with many member states raising concerns about the proposal. The UK has yet to finalise its position on this dossier, but emphasised the need to find a way through the current impasse and to achieve legal clarity on the consistency of the proposal with WTO rules and the single market. Several member states focused on the need to consider clear criteria upon which national decisions on cultivation could be taken and welcomed the Commission's proposal to discuss this further.

Ministers also exchanged views on the outcome of the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN convention on climate change at Cancun. They agreed that the outcome was positive and forward-looking, laying the foundation for further work and confirming the strength of a multilateral process. The UK supported Germany in their call for a new strategy building on Cancun, part of which had to be a move beyond the EU's 20% target.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Oral Answer (Correction)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy in some of the information referred to in my answer to an oral question from the hon. Member for East Lothian (Fiona O'Donnell) on 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 17.

The response quoted an email sent by the hon. Member for Glasgow South West (Mr Davidson), which stated that "Mrs Namir Rad ... was not given only 24 hours' notice" of her impending change of accommodation. It has since come to light that the content of his email was incorrect. Mrs Rad was, on this occasion, given less than 24 hours' notice of the requirement to move by the accommodation provider, Y-People. Y-People has since carried out an internal investigation and the error occurred because the organisation provided inaccurate information to the UK Border Agency. Y-People has implemented controls to prevent this reoccurring and also to provide increased assurance of the accuracy of the information to the UK Border Agency.

The regional senior managers of the UK Border Agency have also implemented measures to ensure that no moves take place in Glasgow without their direct knowledge and approval and that no one will be asked to move at such short notice.

EURODAC Regulation

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Government have decided to opt in to the EURODAC regulation. The regulation meets the criteria set out in the coalition agreement with regard to EU justice and home affairs measures.

The draft regulation will govern the operation of the EURODAC fingerprint database, which collects the fingerprints of asylum seekers, and certain illegal entrants to the EU, in order to help member states to determine who is responsible under the Dublin regulation for dealing with an asylum claim. The Government are committed to the Dublin system, of which EURODAC is an essential part, as it helps tackle the problem of people abusing asylum systems across Europe by making multiple claims in different EU member states.

The Government will approach forthcoming legislation in the area of justice and home affairs on a case-by-case basis, with a view to maximising our country's security, protecting Britain's civil liberties and enhancing our ability to control immigration.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Patrick Finucane

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): In my written statement of 11 November, *Official Report*, columns 25-26WS, I set out a period of two months during which I would receive representations as to whether it is in the public interest that I should establish a public inquiry into the death of Patrick Finucane. As part of this process my officials have had a constructive meeting with representatives of the Finucane family and a further meeting will be arranged. In light of the fact that useful discussions are under way between the family and the Government, I have decided, with the agreement of the family, to extend the period during which I will receive representations by two months. When this further period has concluded it remains my intention to consider the family's views carefully and in detail, along with any other relevant representations I receive, before taking a decision as to whether or not it is in the public interest to hold a public inquiry into the death of Patrick Finucane.

TRANSPORT

Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy in the answer I gave to parliamentary question 31081 on 16 December, *Official Report*, columns 866-67W, about the numbers of persons who habitually travel to a place of work. The table, with corrected figures for 2005, is detailed below:

Numbers of people by mode of travel and location of workplace

Thousands

		October to December				
Area	*Mode of travel*	*2005*[1]	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
England	Train[2]	1,017	970	1,072	1,084	1,040
	Car[3]	15,649	14,605	14,518	14,281	13,998
	Bus/ Coach[4]	1,656	1,562	1,526	1,477	1,331
East Midlands	Train[2]	13	11	12	13	13
	Car[3]	1,393	1,317	1,321	1,341	1,279
	Bus/ Coach[4]	90	99	120	97	97

Note:

[1] Following realignment from seasonal to calendar quarters, data for December are assumed to follow the same pattern as that of October and November.

[2] Includes railway trains but excludes underground train and light railway or tram.

[3] Includes car, van, minibus and works van.

[4] Includes bus, coach and private bus.

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

An investigation has shown that the error was due to a change in the Labour Force Survey methodology introduced by ONS in early 2006. Specifically, the survey changed from providing data for non-standard "seasonal" quarters (i.e. "Autumn" = September to November, "Winter" = December to February, etc.) to using more standard calendar quarters from this point. As a result of this change, the Department's estimates for the period October to December in 2005 are actually based on only two months of data (October to November) instead of three months in all later years. The 2005 estimates given in the answer should therefore have been adjusted upwards by a factor of 1.5 to take account of this difference. However, this adjustment was not applied and the error was not spotted before the draft answer was submitted.

WALES

Localism Bill: Framework Powers

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mrs Cheryl Gillan): I am pleased to inform the House that the explanatory memorandum explaining the Government's proposal for framework powers in the Localism Bill are available in the Vote Office, Library and the Printed Paper Office, and on the Wales Office website: (www.walesoffice.gov.uk).

Proposed National Assembly for Wales Legislative Competence Order

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mrs Cheryl Gillan): I would like to inform the House that the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Health and Health Services) Order 2011 was laid yesterday, as Command Paper 7992. Copies of this can be found in the Vote Office and are also available in the Library. I have written to the Welsh Affairs Committee and to the House of Lords Constitution Committee to request they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 12 January 2011

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): The US National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill and offshore drilling delivered its final report yesterday. This is a substantial document, both in its scope and in the careful detail of its analysis and recommendations. It will of course be reviewed carefully by my Department and all other relevant bodies within Government, to identify the implications from this tragic incident in the gulf of Mexico for the regulation of deep-water drilling in the UK. We will be working closely with the industry, our colleagues in HSE and the MCA to ensure that any lessons to be learned from this report are understood and effectively communicated throughout companies working in the UKCS. This will take time. Nevertheless, there are some key points which emerge even at this early stage.

While noting that the precise contribution of specific actions to the disaster remains to some degree uncertain, the report confirms earlier information on the root causes of the accident. The report makes comprehensive recommendations for the US offshore regulatory regime, including:

A new approach to risk assessment and management, with regular third-party audits of management systems;

A new independent agency responsible for safety and environmental regulation of offshore drilling;

Stronger environmental regulation and enforcement;

A reorientation of oil spill response and containment planning; and

A revision of liability rules.

The regulatory system in the gulf of Mexico at the time of the incident was of course very different from that which we maintain in the UK and is employed in the North sea in general. And indeed the report recommends the adoption in the US of a risk-based performance approach similar to the safety case approach in the North sea. It also recommends the development of plans and procedures for responding to a "Spill of National Significance" which is an approach already reflected in our national contingency plan. As regards environmental assessment, we have a comprehensive suite including strategic environmental assessment, project-specific environmental impact assessments and habitats directive assessments. But notwithstanding these strengths of our existing system, we are committed to learning what we can from the commission's findings and recommendations, and, where appropriate, applying that learning on the UKCS.

And we have already acted, in the light of the emerging information from the many investigations into the disaster, to strengthen where we can what is already one of the most robust environmental and safety regimes in the world.

As announced by the Secretary of State in May, we conducted an immediate review of our regime and decided to increase the number of offshore environmental inspectors. He also announced yesterday our plans to further increase the number of offshore environmental inspections from 60 to 150 annually.

We also required the companies to update their oil pollution emergency plans, to address the possibility of an uncontrolled blow-out.

And consents for new drilling operations in deep water, already subject to case-by-case review, have been required to demonstrate stringently the arrangements for co-ordination between the various companies engaged, and are subject to individual inspection before drilling commences.

At the same time, the industry has been working through the new OSPRAG grouping, with Government participation, to develop new technical solutions which could be deployed to bring any uncontrolled blow-out under control as rapidly as possible.

Also the OPOL liability pool, which is unique to North sea operations, has increased its cover from $125 million to $250 million. OSPRAG is further reviewing the implications of Macondo for the scale of liability cover which would now be appropriate for UKCS conditions.

The report highlights the importance of ensuring adequate liability arrangements are in place to better protect victims and provide appropriate incentives to industry. Some of the recommendations in this area address particular circumstances in the US, including a limit on the liability of drilling operators. There is no such limit in the UK—the liability of companies for the consequences of their actions is subject to no statutory restriction. And the existence of the OPOL liability pool provides a globally unique, and very substantial, assurance that victims would be adequately protected. However, this is an area on which the Select Committee has also made recommendations and in which the European Commission has proposed further work. We will continue to work with industry and with European partners to see how further improvements could be made.

I should add that we welcome the stress placed by the presidential commission on international collaboration and co-operation in developing the most effective approaches to meeting the challenges of ensuring safe and environmentally responsible conduct of offshore drilling operations. As the commission recognises, the industry is truly a global one, and we wish to draw on all the expertise, in industry and in regulators around the world, and in particular with the US Administration, to make these operations as safe as we can.

As the Secretary of State made clear in May, we intend to review the UK's oil and gas offshore regulatory regime against the findings of the US investigations. This review will begin within a month, once the report of the National Commission has been thoroughly analysed. It will be carried through by DECC, the Health and Safety Executive and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, and will be based on the full life cycle of an offshore development thus ensuring that all activities are covered. The review will report later this year, once the US Maritime Board investigation report—currently expected in March 2011—has been published and the details analysed.

HEALTH

Strategy for Cancer

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): Today, I formally launch "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", which outlines the coalition

Government's plans to deliver health outcomes for cancer patients that are among the best in the world in a reformed national health service. Although significant improvements have been made in recent decades—and we welcome the work of all those involved in driving these improvements—outcomes for patients in England continue to lag behind those in countries of comparable wealth.

The strategy translates the three underpinning principles of the coalition Government's reforms of the health and care services into the steps we need to take to drive improvements in cancer outcomes. In order to put patients, service users and members of the public at the heart of decisions about their care, this strategy sets out the actions we will take to tackle the preventable causes of cancer, to improve the experience of cancer patients and support the increasing number of cancer survivors; describes the ways in which choice for patients in their cancer care will be extended and implemented; and identifies the gaps in information on health outcomes that are crucial to ensuring patients are empowered.

In order to ensure that health and care services are orientated towards delivering the improvements in outcomes for people with cancer we wish to see, the strategy sets out the work which the public health service will be charged with undertaking to deliver the necessary improvements in prevention, raising awareness of cancer symptoms and achieving earlier diagnosis; outlines the resources the NHS commissioning board will be able to draw on to drive improvements in the quality of NHS cancer commissioning; and identifies ways in which best practice approaches to cancer commissioning can be disseminated for use by pathfinder consortia through the transition and beyond.

In order to empower local organisations and front-line professionals to encourage the delivery of improved cancer care, the strategy provides possible future models for the delivery of advice and support on cancer commissioning at the national level; reports on the review of cancer waiting time standards, recommending that current cancer waiting time standards are retained; and announces plans to harness the innovation and responsiveness of the charitable sector further in cancer care, to build on the important work done to date to promote healthier lifestyles, encourage earlier diagnosis and provide information and support for those living with cancer.

The strategy sets out how—in cancer care—we will bring the approach we have set out for health and care services to bear in order to improve outcomes for all cancer patients and achieve our aim of improving cancer survival rates, at the same time as working more efficiently so that cancer services make a significant contribution to meeting the quality and productivity challenge the NHS has been set in this spending review.

Through the approaches this strategy sets out, we aim to save an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15, aiming to narrow the inequalities gap at the same time. The strategy is backed with more than £750 million investment over this spending review, which includes over £450 million to support earlier diagnosis of cancer.

"Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Equality Act 2010

The Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone): The Government have committed to commencing the provisions in the Equality Act 2010 in stages, in order to allow businesses and the public and voluntary sectors sufficient time to review their policies and plan effectively for implementation. Most of the provisions in the Act came into effect on 1 October 2010. This statement is about provisions which will come into effect on 6 April 2011. These provisions are sections 149-157 (on the public sector Equality Duty); and section 159 (positive action in recruitment and promotion) of the Act.

Today I am publishing:

> Draft regulations setting out what the specific duties supporting the public sector Equality Duty will require public bodies to do, and to which of the public bodies listed in schedule 19 to the Equality Act they will apply. This follows the Government's consultation last year. The Government will be finalising the draft regulations and laying them before Parliament for debate in the next few weeks, to come into effect on 6 April 2011.
>
> A draft order amending schedule 19 to the Equality Act, which sets out the list of public bodies to which the general Equality Duty will apply. The Government will be finalising this draft order and laying it before Parliament for debate in the next few weeks, to come into effect on 6 April 2011.
>
> A document summarising the responses to the consultation on specific duties "Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty. Promoting equality through transparency" and setting out how the Government have taken account of them and made adjustments to the draft regulations so that they better deliver the policy intent as set out in the consultation document.
>
> Short practical guidance produced by the Government Equalities Office on the public sector Equality Duty and on positive action in recruitment and promotion. The guides are available at: www.equalities.gov.uk. The Government guidance will be complemented by a detailed essential guide and thematic guides on the public sector Equality Duty from the Equality and Human Rights Commission, which will also be developing a statutory code of practice on the Equality Duty later this year.

Copies of these documents will be placed in the House Library.

The new single public sector Equality Duty will put into practice the approach to equality I set out in the Government's Equality Strategy, published on 2 December 2010. It is a powerful means of embedding equality considerations into all the policies and practices of the public sector. The Equality Duty brings to an end the era of Government-inspired bureaucratic targets and shifts power to local people. The community, not Whitehall, will be in the front line for holding public bodies to account. It will remain the responsibility of the Equality and Human Rights Commission to enforce the duty.

Positive action in recruitment and promotion is a useful means of providing flexibility for public as well as private sector employers to achieve a more diverse work force.

Licensing Hours (Royal Wedding)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): Today we are publishing a consultation on an order to relax licensing hours to celebrate the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton on 29 April 2011. The order would allow all licensed premises in England and Wales to open until 1 am on Friday 29 April and Saturday 30 April to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises and to put on entertainment such as live music.

Section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003 allows the relevant Secretary of State to make an order relaxing opening hours for licensed premises to mark occasions of "exceptional international, national or local significance". A "licensing hours order" overrides existing opening hours in licensed premises, that is, any premises with a premises licence or club premises certificate and can be used for a period of up to four days. An order may be applied to all licensed premises in England and Wales or restricted to one or more specified areas. It is also possible to impose different opening hours on different days during the relaxation period and to allow different licensing hours for different licensable activities.

The Government consider that, as the royal wedding is an occasion for national celebration, licensing hours should be relaxed in all licensed premises in England and Wales. However, we are mindful that late-night drinking can lead to crime and disorder and public nuisance. On this basis, we are proposing a modest relaxation of licensing hours until 1 am and intend to restrict the order to the sale of alcohol in pubs, clubs and anywhere else where alcohol is consumed on the premises and to regulated entertainment such as live and recorded music, dancing, plays and films. We are also limiting the order to Friday 29 April—the day of the wedding—and Saturday 30 April as these are the days when people are most likely to want to celebrate.

The consultation will be published today on the Home Office website and copies will also be placed in the Vote Office and House Library.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 13 January 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Default Retirement Age

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): The Government confirm that they will remove the default retirement age (DRA) so that people have more choice when to stop working. Currently the DRA enables employers to make staff retire at 65 regardless of their circumstances, but we believe that the rules must change as people are living longer, healthier lives.

Ministers have decided to proceed with the plan, set out in their consultation document published on 29 July, to phase out the DRA between 6 April and 1 October 2011. The Government's written response to the consultation on the issue is being published today, alongside new guidance to help businesses adapt.

The Government will help employers adapt to the change. Steps we are taking include:

working with ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) on new comprehensive guidance being published today;

publishing today new age positive guidance setting out how many employers manage without fixed retirement ages and benefit from the employment and retention of older workers;

removing the administrative burden of statutory retirement procedures. With the removal of the DRA, there is no reason to keep employees "right to request" working beyond retirement or for employers to give them a minimum of six months notice of retirement;

introducing an exception so that there are not unintended consequences for employers that currently offer group risk insured benefits (such as income protection, life assurance, sickness and accident insurance, including private medical cover). This is in response to concerns raised during consultation that removal of the DRA could put these schemes at risk.

Transitional arrangements are being put in place so that, from 6 April 2011, employers will not be able to issue any notifications for compulsory retirement using the DRA procedure. Between 6 April and 1 October, only people who were notified before 6 April, and whose retirement date is before 1 October can be compulsorily retired using the DRA. After 1 October, employers will not be able to use the DRA to compulsorily retire employees.

Although we are removing the DRA, it will still be possible for individual employers to operate a compulsory retirement age, provided that they can objectively justify it.

The measure is one of the steps we are taking to help encourage people to work for longer against the backdrop of demographic change. Others include raising the state pension age to 66 faster than currently scheduled and re-establishing the link between earnings and the basic state pension.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire and Rescue Control Services (England)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): Today the Government are publishing a consultation on the future of fire and rescue control services in England. This follows the closure of the FiReControl project, announced in my statement to the House of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 141-42WS.

Local fire and rescue authorities have a statutory duty to answer emergency calls and mobilise resources. They have continued to fulfil this duty, and have been funded to do so, during the lifetime of the project and, consequently, the closure of the project poses no risk to public safety.

This Government believe that the fire and rescue community is best placed to decide the future of their control services. No solution will be imposed. The consultation reviews the legacy assets from the project, as well as lessons learnt, and encourages the sector to make best use of these in their future plans, for the benefit of both the taxpayer and local communities.

The consultation discusses whether the original aims of the project—improving efficiency, national resilience and the technology available to fire and rescue services—are still valid and, if so, how they might be achieved now. It also considers the principles on which available funding should be distributed. The role of central government, if any, is also considered.

A copy of the consultation document is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Responses are requested by 8 April 2011.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Forensic Science Regulator

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): I am today announcing the arrangements I have put in place to continue the post of forensic science regulator. The post was first announced in July 2007 following which Mr Andrew Rennison was appointed in February 2008 on a three-year term. His role is to advise Government and the criminal justice system on quality standards in the provision of forensic science. This involves identifying the requirement for new or improved quality standards; providing advice and guidance so that providers, including commercial laboratories and the police, will be able to demonstrate compliance with common standards; and ensuring that satisfactory arrangements exist to provide assurance and monitoring of the standards.

I am pleased to say that Andrew Rennison has agreed to a second term as the forensic science regulator, assisting us in our commitment to the continued provision of effective forensic science services. He has plans to work with stakeholders to develop and maintain the quality of forensic science services across all forensic processes from the supply of equipment used at crime scenes, the examination of scenes, the collection and storage of exhibits, the sampling from and analysis of exhibits, and the reporting of forensic science evidence.

An important aspect of this work is to ensure that quality standards for forensic science continue to be regulated and that the forensic science regulator plays a central and independent role in co-ordinated work with the Home Office, the police and other stakeholders.

JUSTICE

Prison Capacity Management

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): We are continuing to expand the prison estate and construction of new prisons is under way at Belmarsh West and Featherstone 2. The prison population has been growing but has not grown as fast as previously projected. As a result there is scope to reduce overall capacity. We are committed to accommodate all those sentenced to custody by the courts and the decisions of the courts will determine the future level of the prison population and capacity.

I am therefore announcing plans to close two prisons and change the use of a third to an immigration removal centre holding immigration detainees on behalf of the UK Border Agency (UKBA).

The conditions at HMP Lancaster Castle and HMP Ashwell are well known. HMP Lancaster Castle is housed in a medieval castle and while staff at the establishment have done an admirable job and must be commended, the building places severe limitations and restrictions on their ability to deliver the requirements of a modern prison service. Two thirds of the accommodation at HMP Ashwell is out of use, and the estimated refurbishment costs mean that it would not be financially viable to rebuild the site to the standards required.

HMP Lancaster Castle and HMP Ashwell will therefore close. A range of options for staff at these sites is being developed, including redeployment to neighbouring establishments and a voluntary exit scheme. Prisoners will be moved to other establishments appropriate to their security category

A third prison, HMP Morton Hall, will close and then reopen as an immigration removal centre, holding immigration detainees on behalf of UKBA. The prison will continue to be managed by the National Offender Management Service but under the terms of a service level agreement with UKBA. The women who are currently held in HMP Morton Hall will be moved to other sites within the estate. These moves will be managed carefully by NOMS to ensure that they are completed safely.

Work to effect these changes will start immediately.

The changes outlined in this statement will reduce our current capacity by 849 places. This can be safely managed within existing operational capacity, while maintaining our ability to cope with any increase in population. On Friday 7 January the prison population stood at 82,991 with useable operational capacity at 87,936.

We remain committed to hold those offenders sentenced to custody by the courts but we cannot afford to maintain inefficient and costly places that are not actually required given the capacity now available within the prison estate as a whole. These changes are an important step in our strategy to provide a secure and modern, fit for purpose prison estate, while improving efficiency and value for money.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliament (Joint Departments) Act 2007

The Leader of the House of Commons (Sir George Young): I am today publishing Cm 7998 "Post-Legislative Assessment of the Parliament (Joint Departments) Act 2007" as part of the post-legislative scrutiny process detailed in the document "Post-legislative Scrutiny—The Government's Approach" (Cm 7320).

The Parliament (Joint Department) Act 2007 was intended to create a framework for the employment of staff in Joint Departments of both Houses of Parliament, bearing in mind that neither the House of Commons (Administration) Act 1978 nor the Parliamentary Corporate Bodies Act 1992 made such provision.

The legislation was designed to facilitate the creation of PICT (Parliamentary Information and Communications Technology) as the first such Joint Department, but also to put in place an enabling mechanism for the future. There was no specific intention that there should be more Joint Departments, but the issue remains under review while the Administration of both Houses consider ways in which resources might be used more economically.

Having consulted officials in both Houses and Parliamentary Counsel, I have assessed that the Act has worked well to date and no difficulties have arisen that were not anticipated and dealt with in the drafting.

TRANSPORT

Part 3 of the Equality Act (Ships and Hovercraft)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I am today publishing a consultation document which sets out the Government's proposals for implementing part 3 of the Equality Act 2010 in respect of ships and hovercraft.

Part 3 of the Equality Act 2010 deals with discrimination, victimisation and harassment in the provision of services and the exercise of public functions. Bringing clarity and uniformity to anti-discrimination legislation as it applies to transporting people by ship or hovercraft and a service provided on such vessels is necessary as the scope and the territorial application of such legislation is far from clear. People receiving services onboard ships and hovercraft should, as far as it is reasonable to do so, have the same protection as they would on land.

Nevertheless, discrimination onboard ships and hovercraft is not reported as being a significant problem. So the intended policy approach is to maintain, as far as it is reasonable to do so, the protection which already exists against both direct and indirect discrimination, harassment and victimisation but to make the scope and extent of the legislation much simpler and clearer. Anti-discrimination legislation, in respect of the protected characteristic of disability, will however be strengthened in relation to ships and hovercraft when the EU regulation on the rights of passengers travelling by sea and inland waterway comes into force in the UK.

This consultation will assist Government in determining how part 3 is to apply to ships and hovercraft in relation to the actual service of transporting people and the provision of services onboard such vessels as well as those matters relating to performance of a public function in so far as it relates to disability discrimination.

The Government seek interested parties' views on the proposals. The consultation document and the impact assessment are available on the Department for Transport's website. Copies of these documents have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): I am pleased to announce today the publication of "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance". This Green Paper sets out our vision to empower and enable parents to take responsibility for the welfare of their children through reform of the child maintenance system. We recognise that for families, parental separation is an emotional time. The existing system, courts and maintenance, can lead to entrenched division at a time when parents, more than ever, need to come together to put the welfare of their children first. The present system can make it difficult to come to agreements on some of the practical and important issues such as financial support for children. This reform is focused on better support for families to enable them to more easily reach their own family-based arrangements.

It can be difficult for separating families to navigate the support available to them during and after separation. There is no obvious path for families to follow especially around issues of money. We will work with other Government Departments and service providers to put in place a more integrated path.

We believe families should be supported to come to their own arrangements and feel empowered to make fully informed choices. The Green Paper sets out our proposed reform of the statutory system based on these principles and building on the reforms outlined in the Henshaw report.

The proposed reform continues the plan to introduce a new, more efficient, statutory child maintenance system, develops the ideas in the Henshaw review and the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 to charge for the services provided by the future statutory service after it is introduced and also includes implementation of a gateway to access the statutory system. The reforms recognise that the most vulnerable parents will need special support and consideration, particularly those who have suffered domestic violence.

We believe our proposals can deliver major benefits though supporting parents to come to their own family-based arrangements or for those who choose the new statutory system.

I welcome your contribution to this important piece of reform to the child maintenance system.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 17 January 2011

DEFENCE

Integrated Merlin Operational Support Contract

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): I am pleased to announce the continuation of the 25-year Integrated Merlin Operational Support (IMOS) contract with the agreement of the second pricing period with Agusta Westland valued at approximately £570 million. The IMOS contract was awarded to Agusta Westland in 2006 to secure the future availability of the Merlin helicopter fleet to the front line while saving the Ministry of Defence and UK taxpayers around £12 million per year compared to previous contractual arrangements. At a time when Merlin helicopters are deployed in Afghanistan and on maritime operations worldwide, agreement to the second pricing period from 2011 to 2016 has ensured that cost-effective operational support will continue, at the level required by the armed forces. I am also pleased to use this opportunity to welcome the first flight of the Merlin Mk 2, being developed by Lockheed Martin. The aircraft is due to enter service in 2013 and achieve full operational capability during 2014.

JUSTICE

Trusts (Capital and Income) Bill

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): I am pleased to announce that having considered the response to the Ministry of Justice's public consultation on the Trusts (Capital and Income) Bill, the Government have decided to take forward the proposed reforms, subject to minor modifications to meet concerns raised during the consultation, when parliamentary time permits.

These reforms are based on the three legislative recommendations made by the Law Commission in its 2009 report "Capital and Income in Trusts: Classification and Apportionment" (Law Com 315).

I have placed copies of the Ministry of Justice's response document to the consultation, which is being published today, in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 18 January 2011

TREASURY

Economic and Financial Affairs Council

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 18 January 2011. The following items are on the agenda:

Presentation of the Presidency Work Programme

The Hungarian presidency will present its ECOFIN work programme for the first half of 2011.

Follow-up to the December European Council meeting

Council will discuss the outcomes of the European Council, where leaders agreed on a permanent mechanism to be established by euro area member states to safeguard the financial stability of the euro area as whole. The Government achieved their priorities on the European stability mechanism: that it will be for only euro area member states; replace the European financial stability facility (EFSF) and the European financial stabilisation mechanism (EFSM); and that in the future, article 122(2) TFEU will not be used for safeguarding the financial stability of the euro area.

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact

The Council will discuss the assessment of action taken by Malta in the context of its excessive deficit procedure on the basis of a communication from the Commission. Actions taken by other member states could also be assessed on the basis of the Commission's autumn economic forecast and the fiscal notifications. The Government expect the Council to agree that Malta has taken effective action regarding its deficit, in line with Council recommendations.

Introduction of the euro in Estonia: Practical experience

In line with past practice, the Council will have an exchange of views following the introduction of the euro in Estonia on 1 January 2011.

Annual Growth Survey

The adoption by the European Commission of the annual growth survey will mark the beginning of the first cycle of the European semester. From now on, every year the Commission will present its growth survey covering fiscal, structural and macroeconomic issues. This communication, which will be presented to the European Parliament and the Council, will serve as a basis for the guidelines and conclusions drawn up by the March European Council with a view to the medium-term budgetary strategies and national reform programmes to be adopted in April. The Government are content with this approach, given that they secured special wording in the new code of conduct which allows the UK to submit its budget to the EU after it has been approved by Parliament, rather than in draft, as will be the case for other member states.

Review of draft National Reform Programmes (NRPs)

There will be an exchange of views on member states' draft national reform programmes (NRPs), which set out member states' reform priorities and plans and were submitted to the Commission in November. Full NRPs are due in April. The Government believe that the focus of the NRPs should be on tackling bottlenecks to growth.

Communication from the Commission: towards a Single Market Act

There will be an exchange of views on the Single Market Act, which was published on 27 October 2010, and is out for consultation until 28 February 2011. The Government support the single market and believe that future reforms should be strongly focused on measures which encourage growth.

Double Taxation Convention (United Kingdom and Mauritius)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): A new protocol to the Double Taxation Convention with Mauritius was signed at Port Louis on 10 January 2011.

The text of the protocol has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Transfer of Royal Parks Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (John Penrose): I am publishing today a statement regarding the transfer of the management of the eight royal parks and the Royal Parks Agency (RPA) from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to the Greater London Authority (GLA).

The current arrangements and the intended change

It is not widely known that managing the royal parks in London is the responsibility of a central Government Department, on behalf of the Queen. The team that runs the royal parks and reports to the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport is known as the Royal Parks Agency (TRP). We are proud of the work the agency has done for Londoners and for visitors to London. The royal parks are well known across the world and spending time in the parks is an essential part of a visit to the capital.

This statement is about how the parks will be made more accountable to the public through the Mayor. The Government do not propose any major changes in relation to how the parks should be managed, the standards to which they should be maintained, and what should be on offer in the parks to the public. Prior to transfer this will be summarised in a framework agreement. The royal parks are a cherished part of our national heritage as well as being a priceless resource for Londoners and visitors to London. That is understood by all involved in the proposed transfer of management.

At the moment the main line of accountability through Parliament is through Ministers and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. We intend that in future this accountability should be through London's Mayor since all the royal parks are in London. The Mayor is a well known figure who is elected every four years and is held accountable by Londoners for what he achieves for London and for visitors to London. Managing the royal parks would also fit well with the Mayor's existing responsibility for tourism in London as well as his strategic responsibilities for the environment in London.

As a result, we are proposing that the current Royal Parks Agency team would become part of the Greater London Authority (GLA) and report to the Mayor. The GLA would have day-to-day responsibility for maintaining and managing the royal parks, including fulfilling statutory obligations. The Government will need to legislate when the opportunity arises to give the GLA equivalent management powers to those that the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport currently exercises, and to make other provisions needed to give effect to the policies set out in this statement.

The Royal Parks

There are eight royal parks managed by the agency, all within Greater London:

Bushy Park;

The Green Park;

Greenwich Park,

Hyde Park;

Kensington Gardens;

The Regent's Park including Primrose Hill;

Richmond Park; and

St. James's Park.

The Royal Parks Agency currently also manages other land in central London, such as Victoria Tower Gardens, Grosvenor Square Garden, and Brompton Cemetery, which are not part of the royal parks themselves. The Government are developing proposals with the GLA and others who, in place of the Royal Parks Agency, will be best placed to take responsibility for these open spaces and structures and monuments within them in future.

Management of the parks

The royal parks are owned by Her Majesty the Queen in right of the Crown. The parks were, in the main, originally royal hunting grounds and pleasure gardens and were subsequently made over for public use. The royal parks are part of the historic Crown lands and were put under the management of the Secretary of State's predecessor in the middle of the 19th century.

The general power of management of the parks currently exercised by the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport derives from the power granted by section 22 of the Crown Lands Act 1851 ("the 1851 Act") to the Commissioners of Works. Day-to-day management is carried out on behalf of the Secretary of State by the Royal Parks Agency, led by its chief executive. We propose that the Royal Parks Agency would no longer be an Executive agency of the DCMS but instead become an integral but distinct part of the GLA. Crown ownership of the royal parks would be maintained.

The Government do not propose to divide up the royal parks into separate parks operated by individual London boroughs. The Government's aim is to strike an appropriate balance between decentralising power and maintaining the integrity of this historic estate. Greater accountability for the royal parks will be introduced at the level of London-wide government, where all the competing interests can be best addressed. The Mayor is accountable to people who live and work in the immediate vicinity of the parks. He is also accountable to Londoners from other areas who use the parks, and he is responsible for the quality and interest of what London as a whole contributes to the UK and offers tourists and visitors. The Mayor has recognised the strong interest of the royal household and the London boroughs in the good management of the parks and is considering options for a new governance structure for the parks as a whole which will offer them a stake in a new supervisory board.

The devolution of management responsibility for the royal parks to the GLA will also mean that there will be greater scrutiny of the management of royal parks on a regular basis. The London Assembly will be able to hold the actions of the Mayor to account and will have the power to summon officials and seek information.

Retaining oversight where there is a national interest

It is recognised that the royal parks are national assets and there may be occasions when it is still necessary for the Government to be able to ensure that national interests are safeguarded. The Secretary of State will have reserve powers to intervene if it appears that the national interest might be compromised. For example it will be essential to ensure that the current use of the parks and their roads for national ceremonial occasions should continue in a manner which befits their status. Such events must always be given priority over local matters or other events. This is one example of where the Secretary of State will be able to ensure, through a power of intervention, that the royal parks continue to be managed in the national interest and will be able to ensure that future management is not inconsistent with, nor undermines, the significance or status of the royal parks.

Regulation making powers

Currently, under the Parks Regulations (Amendment) Act 1926, the Secretary of State makes regulations that he considers necessary for securing the proper management of the parks. The principal regulations are the Royal Parks and Other Open Spaces Regulations 1997, and these cover matters such as the hours of opening of a park or of particular parts of it, carrying on any trade or business in the park, the conduct of persons using the park as regards, for example, littering, climbing trees, lighting fires, damaging property and keeping control of animals. These regulations are subject to the approval of Parliament. If any person fails to comply with, or acts in contravention of, any regulations, he is guilty of an offence against the Parks Regulation Act 1872 and is liable on summary conviction to a penalty. The regulations are enforced by the Metropolitan police. We intend to create an equivalent bye-law making power for the GLA. Instead of an approval by Parliament it would be subject to confirmation from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Section 62 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act provides that regulations may also be made by the Secretary of State for imposing and recovering charges for leaving vehicles, or vehicles of any class, in the park. These regulations are subject to the approval of Parliament. We intend to create an equivalent byelaw making power for the GLA. Instead of an approval by Parliament it would be subject to confirmation by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Summary of the benefits of the transfer

By transferring responsibility to the GLA, reporting to London's Mayor, we intend to ensure clear democratic accountability to Londoners on the management and operation of these historic parks and open spaces. Through the Mayor, there would be a visible public champion for the royal parks. Better accountability is likely to lead to management that is more responsive to the needs and expectations of park users and local people.

We intend the GLA to have the opportunity to include the future management of the parks in the broader plans which the Mayor develops for London. There will be close links to London-wide policy on a range of issues which affect the parks including planning, transport, environment, tourism and sport. The Mayor will be well placed to seek out opportunities for private sector support for the parks. The Mayor recognises that for successful transfer of management of the royal parks there is a need to ensure:

the national importance of the royal parks continues to be recognised;

the identity and character of the royal parks, which underpins their importance to local residents and visitors, is not adversely affected;

the high quality of the royal parks and their unique identity is maintained and enhanced where possible;

the wide range of interests within, and uses of the royal parks continue to be recognised and valued;

the management of the eight royal parks is retained by a single administration; and

local representation is adequately accounted for.

A policy framework will set out the parameters in which the GLA manage the parks.

There are a number of conditions which will be built into the framework. Key issues this will address include:

the parks must be managed on behalf of the nation as a whole;

the royal parks management structure will be an integral but a distinct part of the GLA;

it is likely a board will be established to manage the parks. This is likely to comprise a chair appointed by the Mayor of London. Members appointed by the Mayor are likely to include representatives from the London boroughs and a member appointed by or on behalf of the sovereign;

the natural and built features must be maintained to a high standard;

that the GLA must consult widely on any major changes to the royal parks;

that the GLA continue to honour the informal arrangements made by TRP with the royal household and the Army in relation to ceremonial use of the parks which should have overriding priority;

quiet recreation by the public remains the parks' primary use;

that there will be no negative impacts on delivery of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games, the Diamond Jubilee, ceremonial and other state events;

that the transfer will not take place until post 2012 to minimise disruption to the Olympic and Paralympic games;

the level of funding the GLA will receive from the Government will be agreed at the outset but is subject to future spending reviews; and

monitoring arrangements will need to be put in place post transfer to ensure that any teething problems are dealt with.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Sales (Coalition Commitment)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): Today, we are announcing our intention to deliver on this commitment by introducing a ban on sales of alcohol below the rate of duty plus VAT.

The Government acknowledge the growing concern over how cheaply some alcohol drinks are being sold, and they are themselves concerned about the link between alcohol and crime and disorder—in many cases as a result of "pre-loading" in preparation for a night out.

As part of our consideration of how to deliver the coalition commitment to deliver a ban on below cost sales, the Home Office and Treasury have carried out respective reviews of alcohol pricing and taxation. These confirmed a consensus that pricing controls can be an effective way of both improving public health and reducing violent crime.

Banning the sale of alcohol below the rate of duty plus VAT is the best starting point for tackling the availability of cheap alcohol and will send a clear signal to retailers and the public that Government take this issue seriously. They will effectively set a minimum level below which alcoholic products cannot be sold and will stop the worst instances of deep discounting which result in alcohol being sold both cheaply and harmfully. Importantly this system will have a limited burden on business and can be delivered at low cost to the taxpayer.

We intend to take forward measures to deliver this commitment without delay subject to the Government's regulatory assessment and clearance process.

JUSTICE

Freedom of Information

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): On Friday 7 January 2011, the Ministry of Justice announced the Government's plans to extend the scope of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act and to further increase transparency in public affairs. The Government will bring forward a number of measures to bring those plans into effect:

We will introduce a section 5 order under the Freedom of Information Act in the spring to bring the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Financial Ombudsman Service and the University and Colleges Admissions Service within the Act's scope.

> We will also consult a range of further bodies with a view to their inclusion in the Act by a further section 5 order later this year. This includes bodies as diverse as Examination Boards, Harbour Authorities, the Local Government Association and the NHS Confederation.
>
> We will amend section 6 of the FOI Act in the Freedom Bill to end the anomaly where companies wholly owned by a single public authority are subject to the Act but those wholly owned by more than one public authority are not. We will also introduce measures to enhance the independence of the Information Commissioner's Office in the same Bill.
>
> We will ensure that, starting from 2013, Government and other public records are made available at the National Archives or other places of deposit 10 years sooner than at present by commencing amendments to the Public Records Act to reduce the 30-year rule to a 20-year rule. In tandem, we will also commence amendments to the FOI Act to reduce the time some types of information—including information contained in court records, and relating to ministerial correspondence and policy formulation—may be withheld.
>
> Finally, we will also conduct a process of post-legislative scrutiny of the FOI Act to see how well the Act is working in practice and whether further changes should be made. It is important that this review of legislation, designed to promote openness and transparency, is itself undertaken in a transparent way and with the involvement of Parliament.

The measures outlined above will increase transparency. However, we must also ensure that information which it is not in the public interest to release is properly protected, and that we have proper regard to this country's long-standing constitutional conventions. It is for this reason that on 16 January 2011, I made a commencement order to bring into effect changes made in the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 to enhance the protection for information relating to communications with the royal family and royal household. The changes provide an absolute instead of a qualified exemption for information relating to communications with the sovereign, heir to the throne or second in line to the throne or those acting on their behalf. The exemption for other members of the royal family and members of the royal household remains qualified. The lifespan of the exemption changes from 30 to 20 years or the lifetime of the relevant member of the royal family plus five years, whichever is longer.

This amendment to the FOI Act is necessary to protect the long-standing conventions surrounding the monarchy and its records, for example the sovereign's right and duty to counsel, encourage and warn her Government, as well as the heir to the throne's right to be instructed in the business of Government in preparation for their future role as monarch. The changes will come into force tomorrow.

Copies of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (Commencement No. 4 and Saving Provision) Order 2011 (SI 2011 No. 46 (C. 3)) have been placed in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

PRIME MINISTER

Competition and Policy (Media, Broadcasting, Digital and Telecoms Sectors)

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): Responsibility for all competition and policy issues relating to media, broadcasting, digital and telecoms sectors has been transferred from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport.

This includes:

> merger and competition cases in these sectors;
>
> sponsorship of the telecoms sector, mobile and fixed;
>
> sponsorship of all content industries, including computer games and publishing;
>
> telecoms policy, including implementation of the EU framework;
>
> broadband policy and delivery (including Broadband Delivery UK);
>
> internet policy and governance, including implementation of the Digital Economy Act;
>
> spectrum;
>
> BT Pension Crown Guarantee;
>
> responsibility for sponsorship of Ofcom (except in relation to postal regulation); and
>
> full responsibility for the digital TV switchover and digital radio action plan.

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills will retain responsibility for postal regulation; sponsorship of telecoms equipment manufacturing and the wider electronics, IT services and software sectors. He will also continue to work with the Cabinet Office as part of the national cyber-security programme.

The Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, formerly a joint Minster, will now report solely to the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport. He will continue to work closely with Ministers in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

TRANSPORT

Driving Standards Agency (Cardiff)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) is responsible for setting standards and conducting theory and practical driving tests for motorists in England and Wales. The DSA is a trading fund which is funded by the fees received from customers, which are set at a level to recover its costs. The DSA therefore has a duty to ensure its costs are kept at the minimum possible level in the interests of its customers, while maintaining standards of service. That means being as efficient as possible in every area of work and considering closely any areas of spending which may not be necessary

Following a review of its operations the DSA has decided to close its area office at Caradog House in Cardiff.

The office has 87 staff who provide administrative support for DSA within Wales, the south of England and London areas—mainly in deployment of examiners, customer service and test centre property management and procurement activities.

Staff have been informed of the decision. There will now be a period of consultation with trade unions. The consultation will be completed by 19 April 2011.

Possible redeployment options for the staff concerned are being explored. It is intended to retain a small office to support some operational staff in the area. Other responsibilities will be transferred to DSA's headquarters in Nottingham and northern area office in Newcastle.

Closure of Caradog House will not affect testing provision in Wales and the DSA will continue to provide services under its agreed Welsh language scheme.

Commissioners of Irish Lights

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): In my statement to the House on marine aids to navigation of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 75-76WS, I said that the Government believe a solution needs to be found as soon as possible to the imbalance of funding for marine aids to navigation in the Republic of Ireland. I am pleased to inform the House that the Irish Transport Minister and I have now reached an understanding on the reform of the funding of the Commissioners of Irish Lights.

The Commissioners of Irish Lights is the general lighthouse authority which has provided marine aids to navigation for the benefit of mariners visiting and passing the shores of the whole island of Ireland for hundreds of years. The organisation has come to symbolise the close friendship and shared history of our nations.

For many years, the funding of the Commissioners of Irish Lights work has been a joint undertaking, its costs being met primarily from light dues income from commercial shipping raised in both our jurisdictions and paid into the general lighthouse fund.

This funding mechanism has been the subject of debate for a number of years and there have been calls to facilitate a more equitable arrangement, whereby the costs of the work of the Commissioners in the Republic of Ireland are funded solely from sources of income there.

The Irish Transport Minister and I have reached an understanding that we will aim to see the Commissioners of Irish Lights self-financing by 2015-16. This understanding will facilitate the long-term sustainable funding of the Commissioners of Irish Lights and ensure the continued co-operation of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland in the provision of marine aids to navigation.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 19 January 2011

TREASURY

Consolidated Statement (EU Funds in the UK)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): Since November 2006, HM Treasury has prepared a Consolidated Statement on the use of funds from the EU budget in the United Kingdom.

The coalition Government have set new standards for transparency in the UK. This is at the heart of our shared commitment to enable the public to hold politicians and public bodies to account, to reduce the deficit and deliver better value for money in public spending. The Government are fully committed to transparency in the use of EU funds in the UK and to strong accountability for receipts of EU funding to the UK Parliament, to strengthen the audit and parliamentary scrutiny of the UK's use of EU funds.

The coalition Government are also determined to ensure sound financial management of all EU funds. We need to ensure that simplified rules can go hand in hand with effective financial management of EU funds at all levels, taking a proportionate and risk-based approach to audit and financial control.

I therefore today lay before Parliament the third of these statements for the year ending 31 March 2009, along with the Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) audit opinion and report.

The CAG has qualified his opinion on the statement, for the year ending 31 March 2009, on the issue of truth and fairness, and also the issue of regularity; and has set out weaknesses in accounting practice during the period covered by the statement. The coalition Government are introducing new measures to improve financial discipline of EU funds spent in the UK.

The coalition Government also hope this statement and the CAG's audit opinion will be helpful to the European Court of Auditors and the Commission when they are performing their own audits and controls; and that the statement and the CAG's audit opinion will encourage similar initiatives from other EU member states, whose contributions to improving financial reporting and management across the EU are also important.

EDUCATION

Capital Funding Allocations

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Mr Nick Gibb): My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for schools, Lord Hill of Oareford, has made the following statement:

> "Today I am announcing capital funding allocations for 2011-12 to address sixth-form college (SFC) priority building condition needs; SFC devolved formula capital (DFC); and basic-need funding for 16 to 19-year-old student places.
>
> The capital settlement for the Department for Education (DFE) was extremely tight, with a 60% reduction in 2014-15 compared with the historic high of 2010-11. We have therefore had to consider very carefully how the balance of capital funding is allocated in order to ensure that it is targeted to the areas of greatest need.
>
> I know that there are sixth-form colleges with building needs which have missed out on previous capital programmes. I have therefore allocated more than £57 million to address priority building condition needs within the sixth-form college sector.
>
> Even where funding is tight, it is essential that buildings and equipment are properly maintained, to ensure that health and safety standards are met, and to prevent a backlog of decay building up which is very expensive to address. I am therefore also pleased to announce that in 2011-12 all sixth-form colleges will become eligible for devolved formula capital at a rate of £4,000 per college plus £22.50 per student. This means the average allocation to a sixth-form college will be in the region of £40,000. This funding is primarily for planned maintenance and is in addition to the £57 million for building condition needs.
>
> The Government are committed to ensuring that all young people have the opportunity to continue in education and training after the age of 16. I therefore want to ensure that funding is available to meet the need for additional places where there are demographic pressures in schools, academies and sixth-form colleges: £30 million will be made available in the coming financial year for basic need funding for 16 to 19-year-old student places in these institutions.
>
> The YPLA is currently working with officials in my Department on the criteria and process for distributing funds for 2011-12 and we expect to be able to make further details available shortly so that institutions can access funds as soon as possible in the new financial year. We will involve representatives from the sector as we develop the detail of the allocations process.
>
> Capital funding for 2012-13 onwards will take into account the outcome of the review of DFE capital programmes, which the Secretary of State for Education has commissioned, and which is expected to report shortly."

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

EU Regulation 994/2010 (Security of Gas Supply)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): I have decided that the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) shall be designated as the competent authority for the purposes of Regulation 994/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 concerning measures to safeguard security of gas supply and repealing Council Directive 2004/67/EC, which came into force on 2 December 2010.

As competent authority, DECC will be responsible for implementing the measures in the regulation intended to improve EU security of gas supply. These include: preparing a risk assessment, developing a preventative action plan and emergency plan, and regular monitoring of security of gas supply at a national level, involving the industry, National Grid and Ofgem as appropriate.

As required by article 3(3) of this regulation, DECC will notify the European Commission of this decision as soon as possible.

JUSTICE

Parliamentary Written Answer (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Crispin Blunt): Several errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull East (Karl Turner) on 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 290W. The correct answer is as follows:

The following table shows the number of minor injuries sustained during the use of restraint procedures in each month in 2008-09 in secure training centres (STCs). Data for injuries are not available by gender. It is a contractual requirement for any young person within a STC who has been restrained to be visited by a registered nurse within 30 minutes following the use of restraint.

Minor injuries

								2008			2009
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Hassockfield	-	2	-	-	2	3	3	-	-	-	4	3
Medway	5	2	3	1	1	3	4	4	3	1	4	7
Oakhill	5	-	1	6	3	3	3	1	1	1	2	-
Rainsbrook	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	1	1	3

Notes:

1. The 2009-10 figures will be available once the 2009-10 Youth Justice Board annual workload data are released. Hence only figures for 2008-09 are given.

2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

TRANSPORT

Rail Franchising Reform

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): I am today launching two publications on rail franchising. The first sets out the Government's current thinking on franchising, taking account of the results of the July 2010 consultation, "Reforming Rail Franchising". That consultation proposed a variety of policy changes. It made clear our determination to deliver a railway that takes greater account of passenger needs; provides value for taxpayer investment; and delivers the right incentives for operators.

Since the close of the "Reforming Rail Franchising" consultation in October 2010, the Department has carefully considered the full range of responses, and has discussed the ideas in more detail with industry representatives.

We are now publishing the results of that analysis. Key principles emerging from that work include:

> (i) the specifics of each franchise will be decided on a case-by-case basis, with bidders having a greater role in helping Government define the specification;
>
> (ii) we will set demanding outcomes for operators to deliver but we will give them more flexibility to decide how best to achieve those outcomes, giving greater space to operators to plan and run their services in a more commercial manner;
>
> (iii) longer franchises should expand the opportunity for operators to invest in improvements as well as enabling them to strengthen their working relationships with Network Rail and other key stakeholders.

We also believe that it is vital that the cost of running the railways comes down.

The second publication is a public consultation for the new InterCity West Coast (ICWC) franchise. A notice was placed in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) last week at which time a formal accreditation process for bidders also started.

Our overall aim for the new franchise is to take as a starting point the much enhanced operations of recent years and improve these still further, while delivering value for money and meeting affordability requirements.

The ICWC franchise will build on the new timetable that was introduced in December 2008 and made possible by the £9 billion of public funds invested in infrastructure enhancement on the west coast main line. This upgrade has shortened journey times and enabled more trains to be run. It has also delivered a more regular service timetable to Birmingham and Manchester.

Bidders for the franchise will be required to make proposals for the most advantageous deployment of the four additional 11-car Pendolino trains that will be available to them. These new trains will enable the new franchise operator to offer more capacity, more frequent trains and shorter journey times to various locations.

The new operator will need to consider how best to improve the performance and reliability of long distance services and the quality of service received by passengers across the franchise. They will be expected to put forward ideas for improving the passenger experience on board trains, providing better service information for passengers, and investing in station facilities.

The new ICWC franchise will begin operation on Sunday 1 April 2012. The franchise is proposed to last for a term of at least 14 years, aligned to the possible introduction of services on High Speed 2. Provisions will be included in the contract to allow for an earlier termination in the event of persistent under-performance by the operator.

The consultation document highlights the key requirements that the Department is considering including within the invitation to tender (ITT), for example, proposals to provide operators more flexibility and encourage investment. Responses to the consultation will inform the development of the ITT which we expect to publish in summer 2011, with the franchise awarded in late 2011.

Over the coming weeks the Department will carry out extensive discussions with local stakeholders, via a series of meetings.

The consultation will run until the 21 April 2011. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the House Library and are available on the Department for Transport website.

A notice was placed in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) last week in relation to the Greater Anglia franchise and a formal accreditation process for bidders has begun. This will be a short-term contract lasting from February 2012 to at least the summer of 2013.

Letting this contract will enable us to include appropriate recommendations from the rail value for money study being led by Sir Roy McNulty in a new long-term franchise starting in 2013.

We will not be conducting a public consultation on this contract as the services that are being offered will be largely the same as those in operation today. However, there will be a full public consultation on the long term franchise before it is let.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 20 January 2011

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Allowances

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): As part of the strategic defence and security review, the Government announced that the amount spent by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) each year on personnel allowances would be reduced by over £300 million. Reductions to civil service allowances will necessarily be dealt with separately to those affecting the armed forces. I am now able to detail the changes to armed forces allowances, which will achieve a reduction in spend of some £250 million by financial year 2014-15.

A strong economy is a national security imperative, and the Government conducted the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) against the background of a dire fiscal situation, which requires difficult decisions on reducing public spending. Proper support to our service personnel is equally essential. An appropriate set of allowances is an important element of that support, and will remain so in the future. However, it cannot be immune from careful scrutiny to ensure that it remains appropriate. While reductions in this area will never be welcome, the package of changes which we are introducing has been developed in full consultation with the service chiefs of staff and represents the best balance between affordability and fairness.

Service personnel are entitled to appropriate notice of changes to allowances, and there will be a minimum of three months notice before any alterations which affect those currently serving take effect. In specific cases the notice will be longer (up to 12 months).

The changes affect the following allowances:

Incidental Expenses Allowance—This a contribution to minor expenditure incurred during temporary duty involving overnight absence; it is paid at a flat rate of £5 per day. In future this allowance will only be paid to personnel in hospital. All personnel will continue, as now, to be reimbursed for the actual costs of travel, food and accommodation.

Local Overseas Allowance—This allowance contributes towards the cost of living, when service personnel are required to serve overseas. We will be modernising the way in which the allowance operates by re-evaluating the items used to construct it, and by reducing the number of rank-based bands from 13 to three. In view of the significant impact of these changes on some service personnel and their families, they will be staged over two years.

Food and Incidentals Allowance—This is a contribution to the additional costs which are incurred by unmarried service personnel and those serving unaccompanied, if they do not have access to service accommodation or messes. In future the allowance will be based on more realistic assumptions and a reassessment of the extra costs incurred. As a result the allowance will reduce from £12.41 to £8.50 per day.

Living out Supplemented Rates of Local Overseas Allowance—This allowance achieves the same aims as food and incidentals allowance but for personnel based abroad. The allowance has been removed and replaced with food and incidentals allowance paid in local currency.

Home to Duty Travel—This assists service personnel with the cost of daily travel between their home and place of duty. At present, individuals are responsible for the first three miles of their journey. In future, this will increase to nine miles, even when they have no choice in the location of either home or duty premises. This change will be introduced over a period of three years to mitigate the affect on individuals.

Recruitment and Retention Allowance (London)—This allowance is designed to encourage personnel to serve in London. Since changes to this allowance would have the greatest impact on those on the lowest salaries, the allowance will be maintained for all those of the rank of corporal and below. For all others it will be removed. To allow adequate preparation for this change, it will not be introduced until 2012.

Disturbance Allowance—This flat-rate allowance was intended to compensate for the necessary additional expenses that arise when service personnel are required to move to take up new assignments. In practice, many significant costs associated with moving (removals, storage etc) are covered through other allowances. It is therefore appropriate to reduce the value of this allowance by 10%. For those with children, the additional elements previously paid will be reduced by 53%.

Daily Subsistence—This allowance reimburses actual allowable subsistence expenditure. We have reduced the maximum rate payable to £25 per day, in line with the rates paid by other Government Departments, and made similar percentage reductions in overseas rates.

Get You Home (Early Years)—This allowance is designed to enable junior members of the services to maintain links with close family as they adjust to service life by funding four journeys to the family home per year. In future it will be available only to those undergoing initial training and for all personnel under the age of 18.

Get You Home (Seagoers)—This allowance is designed to support retention of seagoing personnel by reducing the impact of routine separation. The current provision of 12 journeys to the individual's place of residence will be reduced to 10.

Motor Mileage Allowance—There are three rates of motor mileage allowance currently in use. These will be unified to a single rate of 25p per mile, in line with the HMRC basic rate.

Commitment Bonus—Commitment bonuses are paid at specified career points, and reward completed service. Due to current service manning levels and the redundancy programme we announced in the SDSR we have decided to reduce the value of these bonuses by 50% for all new entrants, implemented with immediate effect.

Specialist Pay (Reserve Banding)—Specialist pay is paid to service personnel with specialist skills in order to help recruit and retain them. Reserve banding is used to facilitate a gradual reduction in specialist pay when individuals are in positions not requiring specialist skills.

The period of gradual reduction has been changed from six years to three, and will cease after the recipient has spent three years out of specialist assignments. Additionally, we will remove specialist pay from those who give notice of resignation. We will not implement this change until 2012. Outwith these changes, we have asked the armed forces pay review body to review all specialist pay as part of its 2011 programme of work.

In addition to the changes described above, we have made alterations to a number of other smaller allowances, to simplify the allowance system and contribute to the reductions in our allowance expenditure.

EDUCATION

National Curriculum (England)

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): I am today announcing the Government's intention to review the national curriculum for both primary and secondary pupils in England.

It is my ambition to reduce unnecessary prescription, bureaucracy and central control throughout the education system. That means taking a new approach to the curriculum.

The Government believe that it is teachers, not Ministers and civil servants, who know best how to teach. We must give our teachers more time and space to create lessons that engage their pupils and enable students to fulfil their potential. The national curriculum will be slimmed down so that it properly reflects the body of essential knowledge which children should learn. Individual schools should have greater freedom to construct their own programmes of study and develop approaches to learning and study which help us to catch up with high-performing education nations.

It is important to distinguish between the national curriculum and the wider school curriculum. The national curriculum was originally envisaged as a guide to study in key subjects which would give parents and teachers confidence that students were acquiring the knowledge necessary at every level to make appropriate progress. But as it has developed, the national curriculum has come to cover more subjects, prescribe more outcomes and take up more school time than originally intended. Reforms to the national curriculum that have been introduced in recent years, such as the inclusion of skills development and the promotion of generic dispositions, have also distorted the core function of the national curriculum and diluted the importance of subject knowledge. International surveys of educational achievement show that in the same period our standing has declined.

The review will therefore revise the national curriculum in line with the best international practice so that it sets out clearly the essential knowledge that all children should be expected to acquire in key subjects during the course of their school career. The new national curriculum should embody for all children in England their cultural and scientific inheritance, enhance their understanding of the world around them and introduce them to the best that has been thought and written. I intend to ensure that our national curriculum is informed by the best international practice, as well as evidence about the knowledge children need to deepen their understanding at each stage of their education.

The Government recognise that there are a number of important components of a broad and balanced education for which it would be inappropriate to prescribe national programmes of study. This applies, for example, in the case of religious education, where what is taught needs to reflect local circumstances. Religious education will not, therefore, be considered as part of the review of the national curriculum. The Government do not intend to make any changes to the statutory basis for religious education.

Similar considerations apply to PSHE (personal, social, health and economic) education. The Government recognise however that good PSHE education supports individual young people to make safe and informed choices but that often schools need more support and help in the way that they cover the important topics that are dealt within PSHE education, including sex and relationships education. We will therefore conduct a separate internal review to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching, so that teachers are in a stronger position to deliver appropriate PSHE education.

The new national curriculum will represent a standard against which all schools can be judged. It will be a national benchmark, to provide parents with an understanding of what progress they should expect. It will inform the content of core qualifications, and it will inform the new basis of assessment in primary schools. Academies will retain the freedom to disapply the national curriculum, but it is crucial that we have a national curriculum against which all schools can measure themselves

The new national curriculum will begin to be taught in maintained schools from September 2013. In order to allow schools time to manage the transition to the new curriculum effectively, the new programmes of study for English, mathematics, science, and physical education will be introduced from 2013, with programmes of study for other subjects coming into force the following year. The review will also advise on how the new curriculum should be phased in for each key stage.

The review will be led by my Department, supported by an advisory committee of respected and successful head teachers and employer and higher education representatives. The review will be informed by an expert panel of academics who will construct an evidence base and ensure that the new curriculum is based upon the best international practice. The review will also be shaped by the views of teachers, subject communities, academics, employers, higher education institutions, parents and other interested parties as it develops its proposals. As a first step my Department has today launched a call for evidence. I would invite all interested parties to contribute to the review and the development of the new national curriculum.

I have today placed a copy of the remit for the national curriculum review in the Library of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Independent Review Crime Statistics

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am today announcing a review led by the national statistician to decide which independent body should have future responsibility for the publication of crime statistics and to oversee the implementation of recommendations last year from the UK Statistics Authority.

I am concerned that our existing measures of crime are confusing and offer the public only a partial picture of the true level of offending. It is in the public interest that we have measures of crime that are clear, meaningful and in which the public can have confidence.

The UK Statistics Authority reported on barriers to trust in crime statistics and made six recommendations in their report published in May 2010. I welcome the UK Statistics Authority's report and have given careful consideration to their recommendations to improve public trust in the statistics.

While the UK Statistics Authority saw no evidence of political interference in crime statistics published by the Home Office, I believe bolder action is needed to more clearly demonstrate their political independence. For that reason, I have decided to move future formal responsibility for the publication of crime statistics to an independent body.

I have asked the national statistician to provide advice on this together with the future arrangements for the data collection systems that underpin the statistics as part of a wider review of crime statistics that she has agreed to lead. The review will report back by the end of April 2011 so that changes can be implemented from April 2012.

I have placed a copy of the terms of reference for this review in the Library of the House.

Wanstead Flats (2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games)

The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice (Nick Herbert): On 16 September, *Official Report*, columns 62-63WS, I announced that the Government were undertaking a three-month public consultation on a proposed legislative reform order to make a temporary amendment to the Epping Forest Act 1878.

The proposed legislative reform order (to be made under the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006), will enable the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to construct a temporary muster, briefing and deployment centre on Wanstead Flats, part of Epping forest. It is proposed that this will take place for a period of 90 days during the summer of 2012 to support the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

The consultation closed on 9 December and I am grateful to those who responded. Twenty-four responses were received (as well as a further seven responses, which may have been from the same people, sent to the Home Office website) during the course of the 12-week public consultation. Of these 31 responses, 18 were against, eight were broadly supportive of the proposal or had no specific objections and five were ambivalent or did not address the consultation questions.

The main points to emerge from the consultation were:

> The fear that the proposals would set a precedent for future development of the area and that the muster, briefing and deployment centre might remain on site;
>
> Lack of information as to alternative sites;
>
> Doubt as to whether the legislative reform order would apply for 120 days or 90 days;
>
> Doubt that the £170,000 payment in lieu of rent would be forthcoming to provide facilities for children and environmental improvements in the local area.

The Government are confident that these points will be met:

> The Government have made it clear that the security requirements of the games are wholly exceptional and that they constitute no precedent whatever for future development of Wanstead Flats. The Government can see no circumstances in which something similar on Wanstead Flats would be required in the future;
>
> The MPS has published, as planned, details of its site evaluation criteria (as well as its long and short-lists of proposed sites) as part of its planning permission application to Redbridge borough council. This showed that no other site met all the relevant criteria;
>
> The MPS has confirmed that it will only require the site for a maximum period of 90 days. This limitation will be written into the legislative reform order;
>
> The City of London corporation has said (and confirmed in public correspondence) that the £170,000 payment in lieu of rent will be used to fund long-term lasting improvements to Epping forest. Local people will also be consulted on how it should be spent. This funding is in addition to the cost of making good the site which will be borne separately by the MPS.

One other issue to emerge during the course of the consultation was the proposed use of the legislative reform order temporarily to remove the "burden" of the criminal offence in section 34 of the Epping Forest Act. During the consultation it became apparent that section 34 of the 1878 Act has in fact lapsed and that the criminal offence relating to enclosure of land on Epping forest (which needs to be removed on a temporary basis by the proposed legislative reform order) arises under byelaws made under section 36 of the Epping Forest Act 1878 rather than section 34 of the Act. We consider that the consultation remains valid and the proposed legislative reform order can proceed.

Muster, briefing and deployment centres are a tried and tested feature of large-scale police operations and will be a vital element of operational policing plans for the games. Given that the Government and other parties are in a position to meet the points made during consultation, it will now bring forward the proposed legislative reform order during 2011. As the consultation document made clear, the order will remove the prohibition on the enclosure of land for the fairground site part of Wanstead Flats in the summer of 2012 on a temporary basis only. The proposed legislative reform order will make no permanent changes to the 1878 Act nor will any lasting powers relating to Wanstead Flats or Epping forest be conferred on the police or any other public body. Full protection under the Act will resume at the end of the period.

A draft legislative reform order and accompanying explanatory document will be laid before Parliament under section 14 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 for scrutiny and consideration. The consultation responses have also been published in full on the Home Office website and copies have been placed in the House Library.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Business Enhancing (Parliamentary Scrutiny)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The imminent annual report on EU Justice and Home Affairs has provided a useful point of reflection on current arrangements for parliamentary scrutiny over Justice and Home Affairs decisions. The Government have come to the view that the current arrangements are not adequate and Parliament has too small a role.

I am therefore pleased to announce that the Government have agreed an important package of measures to strengthen parliamentary scrutiny of EU business, including in the important area of Justice and Home Affairs, to be elaborated and implemented in close consultation with the business managers and the relevant parliamentary committees. This Government are committed to upholding the right of Parliament to hold the Government to account on EU issues and this package will provide Parliament with further tools to enable it to do this job effectively.

The treaty of Lisbon provides for a five-year transitional period after which the infringement powers of the European Commission and the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) will apply to all unamended police and criminal justice instruments adopted under the pre-Lisbon "third pillar" arrangements. The transitional period began on 1 December 2009 and will end on 30 November 2014. The UK has until 31 May 2014 to choose whether to accept the application of the Commission's infringement powers and jurisdiction of the ECJ over this body of instruments or to opt out of them entirely, in which case they will cease to apply to the UK on 1 December 2014.

Parliament should have the right to give its view on a decision of such importance. The Government therefore commit to a vote in both Houses of Parliament before they make a formal decision on whether they wish to opt-out. The Government will conduct further consultations on the arrangements for this vote, in particular with the European Scrutiny Committees, and the Commons and Lords Home Affairs and Justice Select Committees and a further announcement will be made in due course.

The Government are fully committed to rigorous parliamentary scrutiny of opt-in and Schengen opt-out decisions in relation to new proposals from the Commission. The Government will continue to honour the arrangements that are currently in place following the undertakings of the then Government Minister, Baroness Ashton, for enhanced parliamentary scrutiny of JHA opt-in decisions. The Government will also undertake to extend scrutiny of opt-in decisions with the following commitments.

First, following the existing process of parliamentary scrutiny of all JHA measures under title V of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the Government commit to make a written statement to parliament on each opt-in decision to ensure that Parliament is fully informed of the Government's decision and of the reasons why they believe their decision is in the national interest. Where appropriate and necessary, this statement may be made orally to Parliament.

Secondly, the Government urge the Committees to take full advantage of their existing right to call a debate on an amendable motion on any opt-in decision and expresses their willingness to participate in these debates to ensure full transparency and accountability of opt-in decisions.

Thirdly, in circumstances where there is particularly strong parliamentary interest in the Government's decision on whether or not to opt in to such a measure, the Government express their willingness to set aside Government time for a debate in both Houses on the basis of a motion on the Government's recommended approach on the opt-in. The precise details of these arrangements to allow such debates and the circumstances in which Government time would be set aside will be the subject of further consultation with the European Scrutiny Committees, business managers and the Commons and Lords Home Affairs and Justice Select Committees. These discussions will also need to determine how arrangements would operate during periods of parliamentary recess and dissolution of Parliament. However, the Government believe that as a general rule, it would be appropriate to do so in circumstances where they propose to opt in to a measure which would have a substantial impact on the United Kingdom's criminal or civil law, our national security, civil liberties or immigration policy. The Government will also put in place analogous arrangements for parliamentary scrutiny of decisions to opt-out of measures under the Schengen protocol.

As currently, the Government will not override the scrutiny process unless an earlier opt-in decision is essential. Where the Government consider an early opt-in to be necessary, it will explain its reasons to Parliament through the statement set out above. In these circumstances, it would usually be appropriate for the statement to be made orally.

The Government are committed to strengthening its engagement with Parliament on all European Union business as part of our wider work to reduce the democratic deficit over EU matters. It will review the arrangements for engagement on EU issues in consultation with Parliament, and make a further announcement in due course.

These measures will significantly strengthen Parliament's oversight of EU Justice and Home Affairs matters and make the Government more accountable for the decisions it makes in the EU.

I have discussed the terms of this statement with the Home Secretary and the Justice Secretary who agree with its contents.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members' Salaries

The Leader of the House of Commons (Sir George Young): On 3 July 2008, the House of Commons passed a resolution linking future annual increases in Members' salary to the median pay increase received by a basket of 15 public sector work force groups in the preceding year. The correct figure for this increase is determined each year by the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) and takes effect automatically at the beginning of the relevant financial year, having been notified to the House by the SSRB, through the Speaker. I am grateful to the SSRB for undertaking this work on behalf of the House.

The chairman of the SSRB has written to the Speaker and the letter has been laid before the House. The increase for 2011-12 is 1%, according to the formula. In the absence of a further review by the SSRB to specify a different formula (for which provision was made in the 2008 resolution), only a further decision of the House can stop the increase from taking effect from 1 April 2011.

The Government support the independent determination of Members' remuneration. However, in light of the decision to impose a two-year pay freeze on all public sector workers earning more than £21,000 per annum, a motion will be brought forward to invite the House to rescind the 2008 resolution, so that the 1% pay increase will not take effect.

The 2008 resolution also requires the SSRB to conduct a review of Members' salaries in the first year of each new Parliament. By rescinding the resolution in its entirety, the motion removes the requirement for the SSRB to conduct such a review this year. The review of Members' salaries will instead take place following the commencement of the relevant sections of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, which provides for the future independent determination of Members' salaries.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence Services Commissioner

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): In accordance with section 59 of the regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, I have agreed to appoint the right hon. Sir Mark Waller as Intelligence Services Commissioner from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2013.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Sure Start Maternity Grant

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): The Government announced in the emergency Budget that, from April 2011, payment of the Sure Start maternity grant would be protected at the current rate of £500, but limited to the first child. Amending regulations were laid today restricting payment to families where their new baby, or babies if it is a multiple birth, will be the only child under 16 in their household. The regulations will come into force on 24 January and apply to babies born, expected, or the subject of an adoption or other analogous arrangement, on or after 11 April 2011.

Sure Start maternity grants are available to families in receipt of income support, income-related employment and support allowance, income-based jobseeker's allowance, pension credit, child tax credit at a rate above the family element, or working tax credit that also includes a disability or severe disability element. This broad eligibility ensures that the grant is as widely available as possible among families with lower incomes both in and out of work.

Restricting payment in this way ensures that the limited resources available support families when they need it most. Expenditure is inevitably highest when a new baby is the only child in the household and there are no baby items that can be reused or recycled.

This measure will save £73 million a year as part of the Government's deficit management plans.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 21 January 2011

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Off-Grid Energy

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): The recent severe weather has caused significant concern about the domestic oil market and the liquefied petroleum gas market. I fully recognise the difficulties people have experienced with rising prices and supply problems.

Underlying many of the complaints are concerns about the challenges of supplying oil and gas to rural communities and whether the current market structure provides the reassurance that consumers can get fuels for heating when needed at a price they can afford.

The Office of Fair Trading is currently consulting on its annual plan to help determine its work programme for 2011-12. This includes proposals to prioritise markets impacted by high, rising and volatile commodity prices. The off-gas grid energy market is clearly one such affected market.

In response to the Office of Fair Trading consultation and mindful of the various issues highlighted by the recent severe weather, I have written to the Office of Fair Trading asking it to bring forward its competition and consumer study into off-grid energy. In addition, I have asked the Office of Fair Trading if the study could explore the longer term consumer issues such as lifetime payback, consumer standards and labelling for alternative energy sources or supplies. Such a study would provide an independent assessment of the off-grid market and establish what further action may be necessary to ensure it works properly.

I welcome the Office of Fair Trading's support for this area, and look forward to seeing its conclusions in advance of next winter so the lessons from this winter can be learned and any necessary changes made.

HOME DEPARTMENT

EU Justice and Home Affairs Policy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): The Home Office and the Ministry of Justice have prepared the first annual report to Parliament on the UK approach to Justice and Home Affairs policy following the coming into force of the Lisbon treaty on 1 December 2009. The report, which has been laid before the House today, is submitted on behalf of both my own Department and that of the Secretary of State for Justice.

On 9 June 2008 the right hon. Baroness Ashton, the then Leader of the House of Lords, made a statement setting out commitments by the Government to Parliament in respect of the scrutiny of decisions to be taken by the Government in accordance with protocol (No 21) to the treaties on the position of the UK and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice ("the Justice and Home Affairs opt-in protocol"). These commitments were designed to ensure that the views of the Scrutiny Committees should inform the Government's decision-making process.

This included a pledge that the Government would

> "table a report in Parliament each year and make it available for debate, both looking ahead to the Government's approach to EU Justice and Home Affairs policy and forthcoming dossiers, including in relation to the opt-in, and providing a retrospective annual report on the UK's application of the opt-in protocol".

The coalition Government have agreed to maintain this commitment, and this is the first such report. It covers the 12 months since the coming into effect of the Lisbon treaty on 1 December 2009. For completeness the report also covers the application of protocol 19 to the treaties on the Schengen acquis integrated into the framework of the EU ("the Schengen opt-out protocol"). The Government decision-making process for this protocol is the same as for the Justice and Home Affairs opt-in protocol.

Petition

Monday 10 January 2011

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Further and Adult Education

The Petition of staff at Loughborough College,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the Further and Adult Education Sector has a vital role to play in taking the country out of recession, as well as being an invaluable way to give young people and adults an opportunity to contribute to the job market and society and achieve their own potential; that, in the last two years, 1.5 million adult learning places have been lost and that funding will be cut by 3% in the academic year 2010-2011; that the Petitioners believe that the Government should support a high quality, publicly-funded education system in which people are not prohibited from participating by financial barriers; that the Petitioners believe that the Government should commit to widening participation at all levels, based on equality, diversity and social inclusion; that the Petitioners believe that the Government should enable those who teach in education to receive the support, training and pay they deserve, to correspond with the contribution they make to society and individual students; and that the Petitioners believe that the Government should take steps to ensure that lifelong learning is a reality and not just a slogan.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to put a halt to cuts to funding and educational provision in the Further and Adult Education sector.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Nicky Morgan .]*

[P000875]

Petition

Tuesday 11 January 2011

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Day Care Centres (Cheshire)

The Petition of residents of Kelsall, Malpas, Tattenhall, Tarporley and Audlem and their neighbouring districts,

Declares that the Petitioners, who include the elderly and vulnerable in the Eddisbury constituency, together with their carers, families and local supporters, support the campaign by the hon. Member for Eddisbury to secure the future of the day care centres in the communities of Kelsall, Malpas, Tattenhall, Tarporley and Audlem.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to encourage Cheshire West and Chester Council and Cheshire East Council as part-funders today and prospectively to seek one or more alternative bodies to take over the running of these vital day care centres in order to secure their long term future before Age Concern Cheshire abandon their current responsibilities.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Stephen O'Brien, Official Report, 9 December 2010; Vol. 520, c. 5P .]*

[P000872]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

Day care is not a regulated service. Councils are free to take their own decisions on its provision. It is for individual local councils to ensure, through their planning and commissioning of services, that there is sufficient capacity to meet local need. How the councils react to the possible closure of these day centres is therefore a matter for them to determine.

Petition

Thursday 13 January 2011

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Bus Service (Walsall)

The Petition of users of Bus Service 639, Walsall to Wednesbury,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned at the way the 639 bus has been taken out of service from the Kings Hill area; notes that the Petitioners believe that this action was taken without consultation of the people who live in the Kings Hill area; notes that the reason given was lack of use, but that the Petitioners believe this was not the case and that it was lack and incompetence of West Midlands Travel (Walsall), as the bus often did not turn up and was mostly late when it did; further notes that there is not now a service to the Manor Hospital.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to call on National Express West Midlands and Centro to take all possible steps to put this problem right and ensure that the 639 bus service is reinstated.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Valerie Vaz, Official Report,* 9 December 2010; Vol. 520, c. 634.]

[P000870]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The majority of bus services outside London are provided on a commercial basis by private operators. Decisions such as where to run services, their frequency, the type of vehicle used, and the level of fares charged, are mainly a matter for the commercial judgment of the operator concerned.

There are no statutory requirements on bus operators to carry out consultation, as such, when introducing, amending or withdrawing services. The Government do encourage bus operators and local authorities to work together to ensure the interests of passengers, and consequently the wider community, are taken into account when any changes are being considered.

Local authorities also have powers to procure socially necessary bus services where these are not running commercially. It is for local authorities to work in partnership with operators and local communities to decide how best to provide these services.

Central Government are unable to intervene in the operational decisions of bus operators. Petitioners may wish to contact the local authority regarding this matter.

I understand that service 639 was operated commercially by bus operator National Express West Midlands. The company decided to withdraw the service because, unfortunately, the low number of passengers using the service meant it did not make enough money for it to continue running on a commercial basis.

Petitions

Monday 17 January 2011

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Further and Higher Education Funding

The Humble Petition of Sarah Smith and students from schools across Wirral,

Sheweth,

that the Petitioners believe that the Government's abolition of the Education Maintenance Allowance and the proposals to lift the cap on University fees will prevent students from poorer backgrounds having full and fair access to education.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House rejects any proposals to remove the cap on university tuition fees and urges the Government to enhance equality of opportunity and equal access to education instead of cutting off support for students and creating some of the most expensive tuition fees in the World.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Ms Angela Eagle, Official Report,* 8 December 2010; Vol. 520, c. 490.]

[P000869]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, received 14 January 2011:

The Chancellor announced on 20 October that we would be ending the EMA scheme. The scheme will close to new applicants from 1 January 2011, and will close entirely at the end of the 2010-11 academic year. It is being replaced, from September 2011, with an enhanced discretionary learner support fund, enabling closer targeting of resource to individual young people who face a real financial barrier to participation.

Young people who are currently receiving the EMA will continue to receive it to the end of the academic year. Those students who need financial help with learning costs from September 2011, including those previously in receipt of the EMA, may be eligible for support from the enhanced discretionary learner support fund.

In coming to this decision the Government have looked closely at evaluation evidence and other research carried out by the previous Labour Government, which shows that around 90% of recipients would have stayed on after 16 even if they had not received EMA.

We are maintaining the commitment to full participation and to raising the participation age. In replacing the EMA, we want colleges, schools and training organisations to be able to make sure that those students who need support the most will receive it.

Our proposals to reform higher education funding and student finance incorporate a range of measures to ensure that students from poorer backgrounds can have full and fair access to a higher education. This includes the fact that the Government will provide the up-front finance for anyone eligible who secures a place at university so that graduates do not have to contribute to the cost of their higher education until they are earning more than £21,000.

We are also proposing a generous student support package to help full-time students with living costs. The poorest students will be able to get more non-repayable grant than under the current system and most full-time students should have no less overall support for living costs than they do now.

We are asking universities and colleges that want to charge above £6,000 per annum (and subject to a limit of £9,000 in exceptional circumstances) for any or all of their courses to first secure the agreement of the Office for Fair Access, and meet tough new access conditions. We have also announced a new £150 million National Scholarship Programme to attract bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds to help them access universities and guaranteeing them extra support to help them meet the costs of going to university.

Good quality and diverse higher education is a benefit to society and to the economy in the long term. These proposals will ensure that our world-class higher education sector has the sustainable long-term funding it needs and that all those who can benefit from a higher education have the opportunity to participate.

EDUCATION

Education Maintenance Allowance (Wakefield College)

The Petition of Wakefield College and residents of the Wakefield constituency and others,

Declares that the previous Labour Government's introduction of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), to students from households where the combined family income is less than £30,810, has increased the recruitment and retention of 16 year olds in full-time education; further declares that 58% of students at Wakefield College receive an EMA; further declares that for many families the EMA has become an essential part of their income; further declares that the EMA is a vital tool for raising attainment levels for 16-19 year olds and increasing social mobility; and further declares that this financial support to young people continuing their education and training is a valuable investment in young people across the country.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to consider the value of the EMA as a vital support to students from low income backgrounds; to recognise the importance of the EMA as a tool for raising attainment levels for 16-19 year olds and to increase social mobility; to recognise the devastating impact any cuts to the EMA would have on students at Wakefield College; and to therefore pledge that the EMA will not be subject to Government cuts but protected and maintained in the future.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mary Creagh, Official Report,* 19 October 2010; Vol. 516, c. 920.] [P000865]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education, received 14 January 2011:

The Chancellor announced on 20 October that we would be ending the EMA scheme. The scheme will close to new applicants from 1 January 2011, and will close entirely at the end of the 2010-11 academic year. It is being replaced, from September 2011, with an enhanced discretionary learner support fund, enabling closer targeting of resource to individual young people who face a real financial barrier to participation.

Young people who are currently receiving the EMA will continue to receive it to the end of the academic year. Those students who need financial help from September 2011, including those previously in receipt of the EMA, may be eligible for support from the enhanced discretionary learner support fund.

In coming to this decision the Government have looked closely at evaluation evidence and other research carried out by the previous Labour Government, which shows that around 90% of recipients would have stayed on after 16 even if they had not received EMA.

We are maintaining the commitment to full participation and to raising the participation age. In replacing the EMA, we want colleges, schools and training organisations to be able to make sure that those students who need support the most will receive it.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 10 January 2011

DEFENCE

Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel under the age of 18 have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq since the commencement of military operations in each country. [31572]

Mr Robathan: There have been no deaths or casualties sustained on operations in Iraq or Afghanistan of those aged under 18. No Service personnel under the age of 18 are deployed on any operation, outside the United Kingdom, which would result in them becoming engaged in, or exposed to, hostilities. In line with United Nations policy, Service personnel under 18 are not deployed on UN peacekeeping operations.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 985W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, which companies are sub-contracted by *(a)* SEAFAST Logistics and *(b)* Purple Foodservice Solutions to transport food and materiel to armed forces serving in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [31890]

Peter Luff: I am withholding information about sub-contractors which if disclosed could risk the safety of their employees and prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the supply chain and the armed forces.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 985W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what regulations govern the sub-contracts placed by SEAFAST Logistics or Supreme Foodservice for transportation within Pakistan and Afghanistan in respect of protection of supply convoys by private military contractors. [31891]

Peter Luff: Regulations on the use of private military security companies in Afghanistan and Pakistan are matters for their respective Governments. However, the UK, along with all members of the International Security Assistance Force, expect any private military security company (PMSC) operating in Afghanistan to comply with the regulations laid out by the Government of Afghanistan, which is a signatory of the Montreaux Document on Pertinent International Legal Obligations and Good Practices for States related to Operations of PMSCs during Armed Conflict.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements are in place to provide security to contractor logistic convoys in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [32005]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence does not make arrangements to provide security for the contractor logistic convoys in Afghanistan.

Armed Forces: Council Tax

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what council tax rebates are available for members of the armed forces serving overseas on operational tours. [31986]

Mr Robathan: All regular and reserve personnel serving in specified operational locations who pay council tax for a property in the UK or contributions in lieu of council tax for service family accommodation can claim payment under the Ministry of Defence's (MOD's) council tax relief (CTR) scheme. From 1 April 2010, the value of the CTR payment made by the MOD direct to the individual, which is tax free, is £148 for an average six-month tour.

Armed forces personnel serving in qualifying operational locations will also receive the Operational Allowance amounting to £5,281 for a typical six-month tour, as well as free food and accommodation in theatre.

Under section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 2003, local billing authorities in England and Wales have the flexibility, if they wish, to grant reductions or exemptions on an individual basis, or for a class of council tax payers.

Armed Forces: Military Decorations

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to begin his Department's review of the awarding of medals; what timetable has been set for that review; and whether the review will include opportunities for the public to make contributions. [32344]

Mr Robathan: I can confirm that the review of the rules governing the award of medals is now under way and will report to me early this year.

The background and arguments for the institutions of new medals or revisions of eligibility to existing ones are well known and understood by the Ministry of Defence. Indeed we have received many representations from campaigners. Their views will be considered as part of the review.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what level of preserved pension a British soldier with 15 years' service can expect to receive on attaining the age of 60 years; and what level of terminal gratuity such a solder can expect to receive at the end of service. [32309]

Mr Robathan: The Government Actuary Department undertook a series of calculations in 2009. They projected that the annual pension on reaching aged 60 for a rifleman, who retired in 1994, who had served for 15 years and was a member of Armed Forces Pensions Scheme 1975, would be £5,700 per year.

On the day the pension comes into effect, their 60th birthday, a terminal grant will be paid equating to three times the pension to be paid. In this example the terminal grant would be £17,100.

Armed Forces: Young People

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel under the age of 18 years were stationed overseas in the latest period for which information is available; and in which locations such personnel were stationed. [31574]

Mr Robathan: As at 1 October 2010, there were some 40 members of the regular armed forces under the age of 18 who were stationed overseas, 30 of whom were stationed in Germany and 10 in Cyprus.

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel under the age of 18 years requested discharge under the unhappy minors' provision in 2009-10; and how many such requests were granted. [31575]

Mr Robathan: 260 personnel left the Army under the unhappy minors' provision in 2009-10. The naval service and Royal Air Force do not hold information centrally on those who leave by this route.

We are aware of no cases where those under 18 who had expressed a wish to leave the services were unable to do so.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to give persons entering the armed forces under the age of 18 the right to leave on attaining the age of 18 if they consider at the age of 18 that they have been mistaken in their decision to enlist. [32635]

Mr Robathan: There are no plans to change the current policy. Service personnel under 18 years who have completed 28 days of service have the right to discharge at any time before their 18th birthday provided they give the required 14 days notice. A service person under the age of 18 years three months who registered before their 18th birthday who show their clear unhappiness at their choice of career can request permission to leave the armed forces. They do not have discharge of right at this age but it is exceedingly rare for such an individual to be refused permission to leave. These safeguards help to ensure that young servicemen or women under the age of 18 years may, if they wish, leave the armed forces and that any commitment to service is both considered and voluntary.

Arms Trade Treaty

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking in preparation for the second Preparatory Committee on the Arms Trade treaty in February 2011; and which officials of which grades from his Department will attend the Preparatory Committee. [32556]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) fully supports the Government's efforts to establish an Arms Trade treaty that will help prevent irresponsible trade in conventional weapons. The MOD is an active member of the cross-Whitehall team led by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office that is preparing for the Preparatory Committee in February 2011. The UK's delegation will be led by John Duncan, Ambassador for Multilateral Arms Control and Disarmament. The size and make-up of the rest of the delegation will be finalised during January 2011.

Departmental Catering

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on catering in each month since April 2010. [31695]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 20 December 2010]*: Catering for Ministry of Defence (MOD) civilian personnel employed at UK defence establishments who pay for their food is provided through regional prime contracts administered by Defence Estates or under multi-activity contracts placed by relevant top level budget holders. UK based armed forces personnel are primarily catered for through catering, retail and leisure contracts (incorporating Pay As You Dine arrangements), which are being introduced across the UK. Some 65% of armed forces personnel are catered for under these arrangements. Costing information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For armed forces personnel not fed under catering, retail and leisure arrangements and for those serving on operations and overseas exercises, there is a single food supply contract with Purple Foodservice Solutions Ltd. The expenditure for April to November 2010, including the cost of food, administration and transport, is shown in the following tables:

	Spend (£ million)
April	12.6
May	16.8
June	14.2
July	18.2
August	13.1
September	13.0
October	15.1
November	14.8

The MOD has also procured Operational Ration Packs over the same period for which the expenditure was:

	Spend (£ million)
April	5.5
May	7.5
June	1.6
July	2.5
August	3.5
September	7.2
October	2.4
November	4.8

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible has spent on catering and refreshments in each month since April 2010. [31874]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* Information on expenditure on catering and refreshments by the Ministry of Defence's non-departmental public bodies is not recorded separately, except in the case of the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees which incurred such expenditure as follows: April to August 2010—not recorded separately, September 2010—£388, October 2010—£429 and November 2010—£61.

Departmental Consultants

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the potential to reduce the costs to his Department of consultants. [31140]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 16 December 2010]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is co-operating fully with the Cabinet Office led initiative to reduce consultancy expenditure. It is too early to assess by how much costs will reduce but MOD expenditure on consultants will be published in the normal way at the end of the financial year.

Departmental Energy

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what temperature his Department maintains in offices at Basil Hill Barracks, Corsham. [31091]

Mr Robathan: The Defence Equipment and Support Information Systems and Services Corsham New Environment building, at Basil Hill Barracks, is fitted with a fan-coil system, providing heat in the winter and chilled air in the summer. It is controlled remotely through the building management system and provides an ambient temperature between 19-23 degrees celsius.

Departmental Manpower

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalent staff his Department employed in *(a)* April 2010 and *(b)* each subsequent month. [31560]

Mr Robathan: *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The following table shows the total full-time equivalent strength of the Ministry of Defence by month from April 2010 to November 2010.

Month	*FTE*
April 2010	85,850
May 2010	85,640
June 2010	85,360
July 2010	85,180
August 2010	84,880
September 2010	84,500
October 2010	84,090
November 2010	83,890

Note:
Totals listed are full-time equivalent and have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DASA (Quad Service)

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fixed-term appointments his Department has made since May 2010. [31564]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* Between 12 May 2010 and 30 November 2010 the Ministry of Defence (MOD) appointed 177 members of staff on fixed-term contracts. In all instances fixed-term appointments are used to reflect the finite nature of the requirement and include casual appointments as well as longer fixed-terms.

64 of the appointments are apprentices who are employed on limited-term apprenticeship contracts while they undertake their training. Apprenticeship contracts are exempt from the civil service external recruitment freeze. The recruitment of apprentices is part of our continuing commitment to providing the engineering skills needed in the MOD.

39 appointments are teachers employed on short-term contracts in schools educating the children of servicemen and women in Germany and Cyprus. These contracts all began at the start of the academic year.

The majority of other appointments are in direct support of ongoing operations in Afghanistan and include medical staff employed in the operational theatre and drivers appointed on a short-term basis in the UK to provide cover for service personnel deployed on current operations.

Details of special adviser appointments, including names and salaries, are published on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

Recruitment to the civil service is regulated by the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010. The Act established the Civil Service Commission with the role of regulating recruitment to the civil service, principally through their Recruitment Principles. All those employed since 12 May 2010 have been recruited to the Department have been in accordance with these Recruitment Principles. The Recruitment Principles are available at:

http://www.civilservicecommission.org.uk/admin/assets/spaw2/uploads/files/Recruitment_Principles.pdf

Departmental NDPBs

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies has spent on redundancy payments since the beginning of May 2010. [31565]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* None of the Ministry of Defence's non-departmental public bodies (the National Museum of the Royal Navy, the National Army Museum and the Royal Air Force Museum) have made any redundancy payments since May 2010.

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimates he has made of the cost of redundancies in each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* financial years (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and, (iii) 2013-14 and *(b)* each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [31570]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The Ministry of Defence has three executive non-departmental public bodies: the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN), the National Army Museum and the Royal Air Force Museum. The Portsmouth subsidiary of the NMRN (the Royal Naval Museum) is currently implementing a redundancy programme. No expenditure has been made to date but provision of £104,000 has been made in financial year 2010-11. No other redundancies are currently expected or planned for by any of the museums over the period covered by this question.

Departmental Pay

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of his Department's payroll in May 2010; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the payroll in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [31294]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 16 December 2010]:* The payroll cost for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) for May was £1,011.502 million. The forecast cost for the whole of this financial year is £12,273.236 million.

The cost of the payroll in future years will depend on a number of factors, including the number of civilian and military personnel employed. The MOD announced significant reductions to both these numbers in the Strategic Defence and Security Review. Final savings figures will depend on detailed implementation of these reductions, which will be subject to full consultation with all relevant parties, including the trade unions and the devolved Administrations, as well as the results of mandatory assessments on the impact that the measures will have on sustainability, equality and diversity and health and safety. The MOD is therefore not prepared to release more detailed figures at this time.

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions his Department has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings his Department was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions his Department has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31915]

Mr Robathan: Since 26 May 2010, the Ministry of Defence has not provided media briefings with or without embargo prior to an oral statement to the House.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the effect of the increase in the standard rate of value added tax on his Department's annual expenditure. [31187]

Mr Robathan: Departmental budgets are set on a tax-inclusive basis. Based on currently planned expenditure, the estimate of the additional expenditure required by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) due to the increased level of value added tax is approximately £38 million in financial year 2010-11.

It is not possible to produce a precise estimate of the effect on future annual expenditure until the MOD completes its annual planning exercise, which will affect the proportion of departmental spend that is subject to VAT. However, other things being equal, the MOD's best estimate for 2011-12 is £155 million.

Departmental Reviews

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21887]

Dr Fox: This information is not held centrally. I have tasked my Department to collate this information and I will write to the hon. Member with a full response as soon as this information is collated.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to Tom Watson:

The Secretary of State for Defence undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary question on 15 November 2010, (Official Report, column 559W) with further details of those reviews the Ministry of Defence has undertaken since 6 May 2010. I am responding on his behalf. We have conducted nine such reviews, the details of which are attached here:

Name of the review	*Date review announced*	*Date planned of publication of findings*	*Estimated cost of the review*	*Name of individual leading the review*	*To what remuneration the review leader is entitled*	*Number of full-time equivalent MOD civilian staff working on the review*	*Number of full-time equivalent military personnel working on the review*	*Number of seconded staff working on the review, from which organisations such staff have been seconded, and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review*
Strategic Defence and Security Review	Announced in the Coalition Programme for Government on 20 May 2010	19 October 2010	In addition to routine staff costs and travel and subsistence, the Department spent £7,000 on a conference to engage NATO and EU partners and £2,200 printing costs for the National Security Strategy and SDSR White Papers.	Director General Strategy, Tom McKane was the senior responsible official.	None above salary and travel and subsistence costs.	18	8	One member of staff seconded from the US Department of Defense to work on the SDSR and other UK strategy work. Staff costs paid for by the US Government. One member of staff seconded from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.
Trident Value for Money	Announced in the Coalition Programme for Government on 20 May 2010	19 October 2010. Published within SDSR.	In addition to military/civilian salaries and travel and subsistence, the Department paid £210,000 in consultancy fees.	Rear Admiral Philip Mathias was the senior responsible official.	None above salary and travel and subsistence costs.	1	1	None. Consultants were used by the Department but not formally seconded in. The Department uses external consultants only when there is insufficient capacity in house to complete a task in the time scale required.
Green Papers on Equipment, Support, and Technology for UK Defence and Security	20 July 2010; launched on 2 November 2010	Green Paper published on 20 December 2010. White Paper to be published in spring 2011 (planning window is Easter-summer Parliament recess)	In addition to routine staff costs and travel and subsistence, there will be an additional £25,000 given for estimated printing costs for the Green and White Papers, and conference costs in February 2011.	Director General Commercial, Mr Andrew Manley is the senior responsible official. Head of Industrial Policy Secretariat, Mr Mike Tonnison is managing the project.	None above salary and travel and subsistence costs.	4.5 full-time MOD civilian staff working directly on this review. Additional contributions are coming from a number of other MOD and OGD officials as part of their normal day to day duties as subject matter experts.	0	0
Defence Reform Unit's review	13 August 2010	July 2011 but it is likely that reforms will be implemented on a rolling basis over the period of the review.	No additional cost to the Defence budget above routine military/civilian salaries and travel and subsistence.	Lord Levene	Lord Levene and other members of the Defence Reform Unit's Steering Group are not being paid for their work.	20	4	0

Name of the review	*Date review announced*	*Date planned of publication of findings*	*Estimated cost of the review*	*Name of individual leading the review*	*To what remuneration the review leader is entitled*	*Number of full-time equivalent MOD civilian staff working on the review*	*Number of full-time equivalent military personnel working on the review*	*Number of seconded staff working on the review, from which organisations such staff have been seconded, and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review*
Exchange/ Liaison Office Review	20 September 2010	Expected March 2011	As yet unknown. Comprises military/ civilian salaries, and travel and subsistence.	Head of Future and Maritime Team DCDC, Cdre the hon. Cochrane is the senior responsible official.	None above salary and travel and subsistence costs.	1	1	0
TA and Reserves Review	19 October 2010. Announced as part of the SDSR announcement in Parliament	Expected June 2011	In addition to military/ civilian salaries and travel and subsistence, there will be travel and subsistence costs for Mr Julian Brazier MP and General (Rtd) Lamb (approx. £500).	Vice Chief of Defence Staff and, as his deputy, Mr Julian Brazier MP.	None above salary and travel and subsistence costs.	8	4	0
Force Generation Review	13 August 2010	Work will be completed by spring 2011	No additional cost to the Defence budget above routine military/ civilian salaries and travel and subsistence.	The three Single Service Chiefs alongside the DRU	None above salary and travel and subsistence costs.	0	2	0
Youth Engagement Review	19 October 2010. Announced as part of the SDSR announcement in Parliament.	Autumn 2011	As yet unknown. Comprises military/ civilian salaries, and travel and subsistence.	Deputy Chief of Defence Staff for Personnel Youth Study Team Leader, Brigadier James Plastow	None above salary and travel and subsistence costs.	0	2	None but there is a possibility some staff may transfer from the Department of Education to assist in the Review.
Review of Service Allowances	16 December 2010	Report to go to Ministers in spring 2011	No additional cost to the Defence budget above routine military/ civilian salaries and travel and subsistence.	Review Team Leader, Mr Martin Fuller	None above salary and travel and subsistence costs.	1	0	0

Departmental Telecommunications

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the potential savings to the public purse of increased use of *(a)* telephone and *(b)* videoconferencing to replace face-to-face meetings. [31694]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* It is too early to say, at this point in the financial year, how much will be saved by the increased use of telephone and video-conferencing to replace face-to-face meetings. But all staff have been asked to avoid travel where the business need can be met in other ways. This new approach both reduces costs and increases productivity.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made by each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible of the potential savings to the public purse of increased use of telephone and video-conferencing to replace face-to-face meetings. [31875]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 20 December 2010]*: It is too early to say, at this point in the financial year, how much will be saved by the Ministry of Defence's non-departmental public bodies through increased use of telephone and video-conferencing to replace face-to-face meetings. But all staff have been asked to avoid travel where the business need can be met in other ways such as telephone and video conferencing. This new approach reduces costs and increases productivity.

Departmental Travel

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on grey fleet in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [28854]

Mr Robathan: Expenditure on the grey fleet was some £34 million in 2008-09 and £32 million in 2009-10. This expenditure represents the cost of fixed mileage rates through which service and civilian personnel are assisted with the expenses they incur when using a privately owned vehicle for travel on official Ministry of Defence business. The figures do not include the reimbursement of any parking or toll charges, where incurred, as we do not break down such expenses by mode of travel, whether private vehicle, MOD vehicle or hire car.

Private cars are normally only authorised for use on MOD business if a pool car is not available and a private car is the most cost-effective travel option. We have additionally asked all staff, as part of a package of financial management measures for 2010-11, to avoid travel at all where the business need can be met in other ways, such as by e-mail and video or audio conferencing. This both saves cost and increases the productivity of staff, by reducing time spent travelling.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on taxi fares in each month since April 2010. [31693]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 20 December 2010]*: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) reimbursed the cost of taxi fares to service personnel over the period April to November 2010 as follows:

	Amount reimbursed (£)
April 2010	58,000
May 2010	67,000
June 2010	76,000
July 2010	76,000
August 2010	43,000
September 2010	66,000
October 2010	70,000
November 2010	73,000

Taxi fares claimed by civilian staff are not recorded separately from bus and underground fares and parking and toll costs.

Staff, both civilian and military, may only use a taxi for official duty when there is a business benefit to the MOD or when it saves money. A taxi is typically used where no other suitable form of public transport is available. In the present economic conditions, we are constraining the amount of travel undertaken.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible has spent on *(a)* taxis, *(b)* the Government Car Service and *(c)* other travel in each month since April 2010. [31873]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 20 December 2010]*: The Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s non-departmental public bodies do not record their travel and subsistence costs separately, except as follows:

The Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees incurred such costs as follows: April to August 2010—not recorded separately. September 2010—£2,941, October 2010—£2,725 and November 2010—£1,697.

The MOD has been billed £5,774 by the Review Board for Government Contracts for travel and subsistence and courier services provided between 1 April to 31 October 2010.

Taxi fares claimed by the MOD's non-departmental public bodies are not recorded separately. Staff may only use a taxi for official duty when there is a business benefit to the MOD or when it saves money.

The MOD's non-departmental public bodies made no use of the Government Car Service between April and November 2010.

Ex-servicemen: Teachers

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Department for Health, *(b)* the Department for Education and *(c)* the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the proposed Troops to Teachers programme; and if he will make a statement. [29992]

Mr Robathan: We are committed to rebuilding the armed forces covenant and regular discussions take place with a number of Government Departments to ensure that it is put in place. The Troops to Teachers initiative was announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education in the White Paper published on 24 November. This programme is one strand of our covenant commitment and my officials are working closely with other Government Departments including the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the Department of Health.

Gurkhas: Pensions

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has discussed with ministerial colleagues the estimated difference in cost to the public purse between providing equal pensions to all Gurkha veterans and providing welfare benefits to Gurkhas who retired before 1997 and are now living in the UK. [32285]

Mr Robathan: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence, has held no discussions with his ministerial colleagues on this subject.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Gurkha Offer to Transfer was open to soldiers who had already retired prior to its implementation in 2006. [32286]

Mr Robathan: Yes, providing that they had served on or after 1 July 1997, which was the date the Brigade of Gurkhas became a UK based force.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been paid from the public purse through the Gurkha Pension Scheme in each financial year since 2006. [32287]

Mr Robathan: The following table details how much has been paid from the public purse through the Gurkha Pension Scheme:

	£
2006-07	31,442,000
2007-08	36,197,000
2008-09	55,579,000
2009-10	57,960,000

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the Gurkha Offer to Transfer was implemented retrospectively. [32288]

Mr Robathan: The Gurkha Offer to Transfer (GOTT) was one element of a wide ranging review of Gurkha terms and conditions of service. The decision was taken to apply the GOTT back to July 1997 because that was the date the Brigade of Gurkhas became a UK based force.

HMS Bulwark

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the refit of HMS Bulwark planned for 2016; and where he expects that refit to take place. [32312]

Peter Luff: The location of HMS Bulwark's refit is subject to ongoing discussions involving members of the Surface Ship Support Alliance (the Ministry of Defence, Babcock Marine and BAE Systems Surface Ships). Since no final decision regarding the refit has been made, I am withholding information relating to estimated costs as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the seventh C-17 to be ready for use in Afghanistan. [32313]

Peter Luff: The seventh C-17 Globemaster III aircraft is expected to enter service with the RAF this month. The aircraft is expected to be available for operational tasking, which includes flights to Afghanistan, in February 2011.

NATO: Military Exercises

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 283W, on NATO, for what reason the UK made no contribution to the Sabre Strike exercise; and if he will make a statement. [32586]

Nick Harvey: As stated in the answer given to the hon. Member on 8 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 283W, Exercise Sabre Strike was a non-NATO exercise comprising troops from the four participating states: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the USA. Due to its quadripartite nature and limited scope, the participation of British forces was not sought and invitations to observe were issued only to neighbouring countries.

Personnel Recovery Centres

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to provide support for the opening of personnel recovery centres. [32211]

Mr Robathan: The Army Recovery Capability (ARC) was launched in February 2010 by the previous Government as a joint venture between the Ministry of Defence (MOD), Help for Heroes and The Royal British Legion. The coalition Government remains fully committed to the ARC. It represents a multi-million pound commitment by the MOD and the Service charities. A key component of the ARC is the provision of four Personnel Recovery Centres (PRCs) in Catterick, Colchester, Tidworth and Edinburgh. The MOD to date has committed £35 million over the next four years to the ARC which includes the provision of military and civilian personnel to co-ordinate, manage and deliver the ARC, including staff for the PRCs. Help for Heroes has committed a total of £70 million and The Royal British Legion has committed £50 million over the next 10 years to the ARC.

The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force also have their own bespoke recovery capabilities, tailored to their particular Service's requirements. The facilities and support provided by the ARC, including the PRCs, will also be open to personnel from the two other Services, including mobilised reservists.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on travel by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civilian staff as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review consultation process. [31466]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) was core departmental business incorporated into the routine work of Ministers and staff. It is not possible to identify what element of travel costs during the period of the SDSR was incurred specifically as part of the review process.

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* resources and *(b)* allowances for staff working on the Strategic Defence and Security Review consultation process. [31467]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) was core departmental business incorporated into the routine work of Ministers and staff. It is not possible to identify what element of resources and allowances during the period of the SDSR was incurred specifically as part of the review process.

Trident

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assumptions were made in respect of the number of submarines to be manufactured when his Department made its estimate of the cost of replacing Trident included in the summary of the Value for Money review. [27440]

Dr Fox: We remain committed to a policy of Continuous At Sea Deterrence. The cost of replacing the Trident submarines, as set out in the summary of the Value for Money Review, is based on building four submarines. However, the Strategic Defence and Security Review is clear in stating that the decision to finalise the detailed acquisition plans, design and number of submarines will be taken at Main Gate around 2016.

USA: Cluster Munitions

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 427W, on USA: cluster munitions, whether he has made an assessment of the steps his Department took to inform both Houses of discussions with officials of *(a)* the US administration and *(b)* other governments relevant to the Cluster Munitions (Prohibition) Bill (i) before and (ii) during the passage of the Bill; and if he will make a statement. [32570]

Dr Fox: No, I have not made an assessment; this is a matter for the previous Government.

Warships: Crew

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the normal ship's company while on operational duty is for *(a)* HMS Ocean and *(b)* HMS Illustrious. [31944]

Peter Luff: The ship's complement for HMS Ocean is 285 personnel and for HMS Illustrious is 726 personnel. Personnel numbers will vary depending on the nature of the operational tasking.

Warships: Decommissioning

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for *(a)* HMS Chatham, *(b)* HMS Campbeltown, *(c)* HMS Cumberland, *(d)* HMS Cornwall and *(e)* RFA Largs Bay after decommissioning. [32340]

Peter Luff: It is too early to determine the future plans for HMS Chatham, HMS Campbeltown, HMS Cumberland, HMS Cornwall and RFA Largs Bay. Any decisions will be in line with the Ministry of Defence's policy for handling surplus assets.

Welsh Language

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department last published a Welsh language scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Welsh Language Act 1993; and at which web addresses such schemes can be accessed in *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* English. [31162]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence last published a Welsh Language Act 1993 compliant Welsh Language Scheme in December 2009. It can be accessed on the MOD website in Welsh at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/9C5306B3-A9D8-423D-AB35-A1055377EDA7/0/20101011_revised_MOD_welshlanguagescheme_welsh.pdf

and in English at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/78E1B15B-77FE-4BF2-BB8C-AF2F4BEE5C0E/0/20101011_revised_MOD_welshlanguagescheme_english.pdf

Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Timber

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the compliance of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's criteria for sourcing sustainable timber. [27838]

Mr Robathan: The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation has not set criteria for sourcing sustainable timber as such, but refers to internationally agreed criteria such as the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management, as endorsed by the Lisbon Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (2-4 June 1998), the UNCED Forest Principles (Rio de Janeiro, June 1992) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) criteria and guidelines for sustainable forest management. The Government's timber procurement policy is based on these same internationally agreed criteria for sustainable forest management.

The Ministry of Defence, its agencies and its non-departmental public bodies ensure compliance with Government policy on timber and wood derived products. The MOD has a standard condition that is used in all contracts where such products are to be supplied. It requires the contractor to obtain and retain evidence of sustainability for timber and wood-containing products delivered to the MOD and consumed during performance of contracts. It also requires the contractor to submit data on timber procurements to the MOD.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Dangerous Dogs

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many disqualification orders have been issued following convictions of individuals of offences under sections 3(1) and 3(3) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in the last 10 years. [31339]

Mr Paice: Data on disqualification orders under section 4(1)B of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 are not collated centrally.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have been convicted of *(a)* breeding or breeding from, *(b)* selling or exchanging, *(c)* making or offering to make a gift of, *(d)* allowing to be in a public place without a muzzle or lead and *(e)* abandoning or allowing to stray any (i) pit bull terrier (ii) Japanese tosa, (iii) dogo argentino and (iv) fila brasileiro in each of the last five years. [31342]

Mr Paice: It is not possible to identify the type of fighting dog from data collated centrally. However, the number of people convicted of these offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in England and Wales in each of the last five years can be found in the following table. Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring.

Offence	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Breeding or breeding from a fighting dog. Section of Act: 1(2)(a)	1	1	7	4	4
Selling, exchanging, offering, advertising or exposing for sale a fighting dog. Section of Act: 1(2)(b)	—	—	—	1	—
Giving or offering to give a fighting dog. Section of Act: 1 (2)(c)	—	—	—	—	—
Allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead. Section of Act: 1(2)(d)	3	—	5	15	11
Abandoning, or allowing to stray, a fighting dog. Section of Act: 1(2)(e)	—	—	—	—	1

Notes:

1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
3. 2008 figures exclude convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the conviction rate was in respect of offences committed under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each year since its implementation. [31344]

Mr Paice: The conviction ratio in respect of offences committed under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each year since its implementation can be found in the following table. Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring.

	Conviction ratio (found guilty as a percentage of proceeded against)
1991	50
1992	47
1993	44
1994	42
1995	40
1996	35
1997	48
1998	53
1999	55
2000	54
2001	59
2002	56
2003	54
2004	59
2005	61
2006	62
2007	66
2008	71
2009	70

Notes:

1. These statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
3. Staffordshire police force was only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
4. 2008 figures exclude convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many invoices her Department processed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [30751]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is given in the following table.

	Number
Core Department	103,975
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	1,904
Rural Payments Agency (RPA)	11,917
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	29,103
Food and Environment Research Agency	23,828
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	10,704
Total	181,431

Note:

The RPA figure does not include payments made to farmers under the single payment scheme.

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions her Department has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings her Department was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions her Department has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31919]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has made no oral statements since 26 May 2010.

Deposit Refund Schemes

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many submissions on deposit refund schemes her Department has received from *(a)* individuals, *(b)* non-governmental organisations and *(c)* companies and trade associations as part of its review of waste policy in England; [32437]

(2) what proportion of the responses received to her Department's consultation on waste policy in England related to deposit refund schemes. [32438]

Richard Benyon: Of the 309 responses to the Government's Review of Waste Policies' Call for Evidence, which ran between 29 July and 7 October, 43 (14%) included comments about deposit refund schemes. Of these 43 responses, 17 were from local authorities, 13 from non-governmental organisations (including campaign groups and charities), five from businesses, five from individuals and three from trade associations.

Five comments about deposit refund schemes were made on the review's interactive website and 50 out of 1,500 contributions to our online survey also referenced deposit schemes. The survey and interactive website were both active between 29 July and 9 September.

In addition, we received 1,458 e-mails in support of the "Many Happy Returns" campaign conducted by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, which called for the implementation of a UK-wide deposit refund scheme for 2015.

The Government are considering the arguments and evidence put forward relating to deposit refund schemes as part of the Review of Waste Policies. Preliminary findings of the review will be published in May 2011.

EU Fisheries Council

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 144W, on the EC Fisheries Council, which officials accompanied her to the meeting of the EU Fisheries Council in December 2010. [31530]

Richard Benyon: All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code. Eight officials accompanied the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Natural Environment and Fisheries.

Flood Control

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on which flood defence schemes work is being undertaken; on which flood defence schemes which have been approved by the Environment Agency work has not yet commenced; and in which financial year work is due to commence for each such scheme. [31285]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the flood schemes currently under construction in this financial year.

It is too early to identify individual new flood defence projects that will be funded during the coming spending period. Detailed decisions on individual schemes will only be reached once annual budgets are finalised. These decisions will take account of the response to the public consultation that DEFRA launched on 24 November, setting out potential changes to the way in which Government funding is allocated to projects.

Flood schemes under construction financial year 2010-11

Project name	*Region*	*Operating authority*
Welches Dam Pumping Station Refurbishment	Anglian	Environment Agency
Wisbech Defences	Anglian	Environment Agency
Middle Level Barrier Bank Erosion Protection	Anglian	Environment Agency
Broadland Public Private Partnership Project	Anglian	Environment Agency
Tilbury Reservoir Works	Anglian	Environment Agency
Lineshore 2010 to 2015	Anglian	Environment Agency
Ipswich Flood Defence Management System: EDF P 'Cable Diversion'	Anglian	Environment Agency
Ipswich Flood Defence Management System: Implementation	Anglian	Environment Agency
Ipswich Flood Defence Management System: West Bank Works	Anglian	Environment Agency
Warden Hill Flood Relief Works	Midlands	Cheltenham Borough Council
Cheltenham Flood Alleviation Scheme	Midlands	Environment Agency
Burton Walls	Midlands	Environment Agency
Horsebere Brook	Midlands	Environment Agency
Upton Upon Severn Flood Risk Management Scheme	Midlands	Environment Agency
Prestbury Flood Alleviation Scheme	Midlands	Environment Agency
Nottingham Trent Left Bank	Midlands	Environment Agency
Gainsborough Frontage	Midlands	Environment Agency
Altmouth Urgent Works	North West	Environment Agency
River Douglas, Wigan (Storage Basin)	North West	Environment Agency
Thacka Beck, Penrith Flood Alleviation Scheme	North West	Environment Agency
Carlisle City and Caldew	North West	Environment Agency

Flood schemes under construction financial year 2010-11

Project name	*Region*	*Operating authority*
Walverden Water Flood Alleviation Scheme	North West	Environment Agency
Stanah Pumping Station Safety Works	North West	Environment Agency
Chorley Reservoir Decommissioning	North West	Environment Agency
Poole Frontage Management Plan Works—Control Structures	South West	Borough of Poole
Pill Tidal Defence Scheme	South West	Environment Agency
St Ives—Stennack Stream	South West	Environment Agency
Shaldon and Ringmore Flood Defence Scheme	South West	Environment Agency
Parrett Health and Safety Improvements to Structures	South West	Parrett Internal Drainage Board
Selsey Beach Capital Scheme plus Management Plan (5 years—2010/11 to 2014/15)	Southern	Chichester District Council
Seasalter to Graveney Sea Defences	Southern	Environment Agency
Bulverhythe Capital Maintenance 2007/08 to 2011/12	Southern	Environment Agency
Leigh Barrier Enhanced Maintenance	Southern	Environment Agency
Pevensey Bay Sea Defences Public Private Partnership	Southern	Environment Agency
Tidal Ouse—Raised Defence Revetments	Southern	Environment Agency
Dartford Creek Barrier 2030	Southern	Environment Agency
High Knocke to Dymchurch Sea Defences—Frontage A	Southern	Environment Agency
Pett Shingle Renourishment Ph 2-6	Southern	Environment Agency
Hayling Island North Improvements	Southern	Environment Agency
Oyster Coast Brooks Culvert Repairs Package	Southern	Environment Agency
Rye Harbour Farm Habitat Creation	Southern	Environment Agency
Beach Management Plan, Eastoke, Hayling Island	Southern	Havant Borough Council
Coastal Defence Capital Maintenance Works: Peacehaven, East Sussex	Southern	Lewes District Council
Coronation Parade, Folkestone—Works	Southern	Shepway District Council
Greatstone Dunes Management	Southern	Shepway District Council
Margate Flood and Coast Protection Scheme	Southern	Thanet District Council
Paddle and Rymer Health and Safety Works	Thames	Environment Agency
Thames Weir Motorisation Health and Safety Work	Thames	Environment Agency
Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Thames Barrier Logic Control Systems Upgrade	Thames	Environment Agency
Erith Green Level Pumping Station	Thames	Environment Agency
Barking and Dagenham Mechanical and Electrical Package 2	Thames	Environment Agency
Deptford Creek Frontages Package	Thames	Environment Agency
Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Ancillary Services	Thames	Environment Agency
Cobbins Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme	Thames	Environment Agency
TE2100 Barking and Dagenham Tidal Walls	Thames	Environment Agency
Barking and Dagenham Mechanical and Electrical Package 3	Thames	Environment Agency
Haydon Wick Flood Alleviation Scheme	Thames	Environment Agency
Lower Mole Flood Alleviation Scheme Operational Access Road	Thames	Environment Agency
River Wey Gate Motorisation	Thames	Environment Agency
Thames Barrier Perimeter Security	Thames	Environment Agency
River Rib Bank Erosion	Thames	Environment Agency
Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Thames Barrier Port of London Authority Navigation Aids	Thames	Environment Agency
Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Remaining King George V works from Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Strategy	Thames	Environment Agency
Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Remaining Gallions works from Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Strategy	Thames	Environment Agency
Kew Embankment Repairs	Thames	Environment Agency
Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Thames Barrier Pier Crane Modernisation	Thames	Environment Agency
Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Thames Barrier Replacement Tools and Equipment	Thames	Environment Agency
Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Remaining Barking Barrier works from Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Strategy	Thames	Environment Agency
Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Drive Equipment	Thames	Environment Agency
Barking and Dagenham Mechanical and Electrical Package 1	Thames	Environment Agency
Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Remaining Thames Barrier works from Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Strat	Thames	Environment Agency
Upper Mole Flood Alleviation Scheme	Thames	Environment Agency
Oxford Short Term Measures 2	Thames	Environment Agency
Thames Weirs High Priority Programme Package 1	Thames	Environment Agency
Thames Weirs High Priority Programme Package 2	Thames	Environment Agency
Park Lane	Thames	Wokingham Borough Council
Hull Tidal Barrier Drive	Yorkshire and North East	Environment Agency
East Hull Pumping Station short term solution	Yorkshire and North East	Environment Agency
Ripon	Yorkshire and North East	Environment Agency
Wakefield (Ph 3)	Yorkshire and North East	Environment Agency
Ings Beck	Yorkshire and North East	Environment Agency
Neasham Reservoir remedial works	Yorkshire and North East	Environment Agency
Rawcliffe Bridge Embankment Repairs, River Don	Yorkshire and North East	Environment Agency
Redcar	Yorkshire and North East	Environment Agency
Walsden Water—Todmorden Phase 3	Yorkshire and North East	Environment Agency

Flood schemes under construction financial year 2010-11

Project name	*Region*	*Operating authority*
Adwick-Le-Street and Toll Bar (A1 to Ea Beck Triangle) Embankment Improvements, Ea Beck	Yorkshire and North East	Environment Agency
Eastrington and Laxton Flood Management Project	Yorkshire and North East	Lower Ouse Internal Drainage Board
Gilberdyke and Blacktoft Flood Management Project	Yorkshire and North East	Lower Ouse Internal Drainage Board
Cullercoats Bay Design And Construction	Yorkshire and North East	North Tyneside Council
Scarborough Strategy Priority Schemes East Pier to Castle Holms	Yorkshire and North East	Scarborough Borough Council

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingency plans her Department has made to respond to flooding resulting from melting snow. [32757]

Richard Benyon: Most local authorities, and the local resilience forums of which they are part, have multi-agency flood plans, which set out their planned responses to flooding events. These are based on guidance produced by central Government; DEFRA is the lead Department for the central response to potential and real flooding events including from melting snow. Local authorities also benefit from the daily forecasts from the Flood Forecasting Centre, which include assessments of the risk of flooding from snow melt at an individual county level.

Mosquitos

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department *(a)* had discussions with Oxitec prior to and *(b)* holds information on the (i) consent procedures in place for and (ii) environmental impact assessment of the experimental release of genetically-modified mosquitos in Grand Cayman in 2009 and 2010. [31740]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA did not have any discussions with Oxitec prior to the trial release of genetically modified mosquitoes in Grand Cayman, nor do we hold information on the associated consent procedures as these are a matter for the Cayman authorities alone. Subsequent to the trial release Oxitec has provided us with a copy of the risk assessment that was undertaken with the Cayman authorities.

Nocton Dairies

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on farming practices at Nocton Dairies, Lincolnshire; and if she will make a statement. [32262]

Mr Paice: I have received numerous letters on this subject from animal welfare organisations, MPs and individual members of the public.

I am unable to comment on individual planning applications. However, when in operation, all dairy farms must comply with the relevant legislation, including comprehensive animal welfare legislation, whatever the size of unit or system of production.

North East England

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Ministers of her Department have visited the North East since their appointment; on what date such visits took place; and for what purposes such visits were undertaken. [31601]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Minister	*Date*	*Details*
Lord Henley	16 and 17 August 2010	Waste visits: Richmondshire Council, Richmond, to view recycling in action. Billingham, SITA Energy from Waste plant tour and discussion. South Tyneside trade waste, South Shields tour of Trade Waste Operations. FareShare depot at Pallion in Sunderland discussion, tour and North Family Zone to see the charity in action. West Sleekburn, SITA Material Recovery Facility, tour discussion and presentation.
Lord Henley	15 October 2010	Northern Farming Conference, Newcastle. Keynote speech from 10 am.
Lord Henley	25 November 2010	Waste visits: Biffa Polymers (plastic recycling plant) for tour and discussion. Sembcorp biomass plant for tour and discussion. Graphite Resources for a tour. Ineos Bio to discuss Seal Sands waste to bioethanol project, and general waste/biomass issues. Air Products, a company who do gasification of waste to produce electricity and downstream hydrogen. Meeting with PYReco, to discuss positive impact on the UK's Climate Change Agenda and substantial recycling potential across industry. Closing speech at Waste Conference in Gateshead.
Richard Benyon	15-16 June	Launch of MMO in Newcastle, and visited the Northumberland National Park.
Richard Benyon	14-15 July	Attended the British Irish Environment Council in Newcastle.

Recycling

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the contribution of remanufacturing to her Department's waste strategy. [30710]

Richard Benyon: A joint policy project between DEFRA'S Waste and Sustainable Consumption and Production Programmes is examining the subject of waste prevention. This project will input both to the current review of waste policy as well as to the preparation of a National Waste Prevention Programme by December 2013, as required under the revised waste framework directive.

Part of the early work of the project has involved reviewing the existing evidence relating to business waste prevention. This is an in-depth scoping study to help examine the current knowledge base as well as identify priority gaps that need to be filled by subsequent research studies. Remanufacturing is one aspect of waste prevention being covered in this review study.

Ritual Slaughter

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether planned changes to food labelling regulations will include consideration as to whether meat products have been processed using religious ritual measures. [32634]

Mr Paice: At the European Parliament's (EP's) first reading of the proposed food information regulation (FIR), the EP introduced a proposal to require meat from animals that have been slaughtered without stunning to be labelled as such. Negotiations in Europe are at an early stage.

We do not consider an amendment to the FIR to be the right vehicle for providing information on the method of slaughter. We believe this is primarily a welfare issue should be dealt with in this context.

There appears to be little support for the proposed EP amendment from other member states. However the EP may seek to incorporate its proposal into the draft food information regulation at the second reading stage.

Supermarkets: Competition

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the implementation of the Grocery Supply Chain Code of Practice and the appointment of the adjudicator; and if she will make a statement. [30331]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State has regular discussions with her opposite number in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on a range of topical issues, which includes the establishment of a groceries code adjudicator to monitor and enforce the groceries supply code of practice. This was most recently discussed in December.

Welsh language

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when her Department last published a Welsh language scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Welsh Language Act 1993; and at which web addresses such schemes can be accessed in *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* English. [31164]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA last published a Welsh language scheme in 2005.

Both Welsh and English versions of the scheme are available via:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/reports

Zoos: EU Law

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects on annual welfare standards in England of the EU Directive on Zoos, 1999/22/EC. [31941]

Mr Paice: The directive is implemented through the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 which requires animals in zoos to be accommodated in conditions which aim to satisfy their biological and conservation requirements. The Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice expand on these requirements and specify the minimum standards, including welfare standards, zoos must meet. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 also covers zoo animals.

Local authorities have responsibility for licensing and inspecting zoos in their areas and are empowered to impose and enforce conditions to ensure that high standards are maintained. DEFRA has not carried out a separate assessment, but will take very seriously any reports of welfare problems it receives.

TRANSPORT

Airports

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will encourage UK airports serving international flights to locate or relocate to regions of the country with lower than average snowfall. [29728]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has no plans to introduce policies to encourage airlines to relocate flights to airports in regions of the country with lower than average snowfall.

Aviation: Radio Frequencies

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential for increasing the efficiency of the use of radio spectrum by the aviation sector. [31458]

Mrs Villiers: Responsibility for efficient use of the radio spectrum rests with Ofcom, the independent regulator. On 14 December 2010, Ofcom published a statement setting out a new pricing structure for VHF frequencies used by the aviation sector. Ofcom has previously proposed that Government take responsibility for the strategic management of spectrum used for maritime and aviation radar and aeronautical navigation aids. Officials are considering the practicality of doing so.

Aviation: Security

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the continuing requirement for restriction on carriage of toner cartridges by air; and if he will make a statement. [31131]

Mrs Villiers: Further interim measures were introduced on 10 December 2010. These included measures to replace the restrictions on toner cartridges flying in cargo or hand baggage. The new measures stipulate that:

> Printing equipment with ink or toner cartridges inside and where the cartridge weighs more than 500g are not to be carried in air cargo or mail into, from or via the UK unless they originate from a UK validated known consignor.
>
> All other restrictions on printer cartridges are lifted.

The ban on all air cargo from Yemen and Somalia remains in place.

Work is ongoing, on an EU wide basis, to agree an internationally applicable regime for the carriage of such freight.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the oral Statement of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 632-3, on the aviation security incident, when he expects the airport security scanners which the Secretary of State for the Home Department undertook to send to Yemen to be sent. [31244]

Mrs Villiers: As part of the Government's package of measures to support the Government of Yemen, we have agreed with them a detailed programme to assist the improvement in aviation security at Sana'a International airport. This programme includes the provision of aviation security equipment and training.

We have been in regular discussion with the Yemeni authorities to deliver this programme, which is approaching the implementation stage. Subject to a number of contractual issues and other considerations we are hopeful that purchase and delivery of equipment will be completed by the end of March 2011.

Shipping: Pilots

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice he has received on section 32(1) of the Pilotage Act 1987 in relation to the regulation of standards of qualifications for statutory pilots. [32641]

Mike Penning: The Department considers that the industry funded body Ports Skills and Safety (PSS) is best placed to improve pilotage skills and standards. In early 2011, PSS will begin implementing a programme to update the National Occupational Standards for pilots, and in due course, to develop Certificates of Competence for new and existing UK pilots.

Bus Services: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 188W, on bus services: finance, what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the 20 per cent. reduction in Bus Service Operators Grant on *(a)* bus fares and *(b)* service reductions in (i) London, (ii) metropolitan areas with an integrated transport authority and (iii) non-metropolitan areas. [27645]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport estimates that the approximate average impacts of the 20% reduction in Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) could be:

		Percentage
Area	*Impact on fares*	*Impact on services*
London	+2	-1
Metropolitan Areas	+2	-1
Conurbations	+1	-1
Small Towns	+1	-2
Rural Areas	+2	-2

I spoke to the Confederation of Passenger Transport who represent the bus industry following the spending review, who were hopeful that, in general, the small reduction in BSOG could be absorbed without fares having to rise.

Buses: Exhaust Emissions

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of the £30 million Green Bus Fund has been allocated to *(a)* local authorities in Sussex and *(b)* Brighton and Hove. [30432]

Norman Baker: None of the £30 million Green Bus Fund has been allocated to local authorities in either Sussex or Brighton and Hove. No bids were received from these local authorities.

Contracts: Public Finance

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the cost to the public purse has been of staff on fixed-term contracts in his Department in each month since April 2010; [30941]

Jim Fitzpatrick: (2) how much his Department has spent on staff on fixed-term contracts in each month since April 2010. [30945]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 15 December 2010]*: The following table shows how much the Department for Transport and its seven executive agencies has spent on staff on fixed-term contracts in each month since April 2010.

	£
April	922,070.30
May	1,050,909.35
June	1,107,229.66
July	1,078,061.78
August	1,027,287.65
September	928,472.40
October	766,556.56
November	734,818.42

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the maintenance and operating costs were for the Dartford Crossing in each year since 2008. [32539]

Mike Penning: The accounts of the Highways Agency details the following expenditure on maintenance and operating costs for the Dartford Crossing:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2008-09	26.7
2009-10	26.8

The expenditure in 2009-10 includes an estimate of the Dartford maintenance and operating costs delivered through the M25 PFI contract.

In May 2009, the agency signed a 30-year design, build, finance and operate (DBFO) PFI contract with Connect Plus (M25) Limited. As part of this new contract, the function of managing the crossing and collecting charges transferred to Connect Plus (M25) Limited from 13 September 2009. The inclusion of the Dartford Crossing as part of this DBFO contract was designed to ensure the agency could achieve maximum value for money from the new contract. Due to the nature of the contract, the agency pays a single service payment to cover all of the contract activities, including maintenance and operating costs of the crossing.

Departmental NDPBs

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff have been appointed on a fixed-term contract by each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department since May 2010. [31019]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 16 December 2010]*: The number of staff appointed on a fixed-term contract by each non-departmental public body sponsored by this Department for Transport (DFT) since May 2010 are as follows:

	Staff
RFA	0
BTPA	1
DPTAC	0
DOR Ltd	0
Northern Lighthouse Board	0
Passenger Focus	4
Trinity Lighthouse	12
TCs and DTCs	0

Notes:
1. DFT non-departmental public bodies are:
RFA—Renewable Fuels Agency
BTPA—British Transport Police Authority
Cycling England
DPTAC—Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee
DOR Ltd—Directly Operated Railways Ltd
NLB—Northern Lighthouse Board
Passenger Focus
TLS—Trinity Lighthouse Service
TCs and DTCs—Traffic Commissioners and Deputy Traffic Commissioners
2. Cycling England does not exist as its own legal entity—it is essentially part of DFT. It ceases to exist after March 2011.

Departmental Overtime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on overtime for staff working within his private office in each of the last five years. [28566]

Norman Baker: The expenditure on overtime for staff working in the Secretary of State for Transport's private office is shown in the following table.

	£
2005-06	26,554.76
2006-07	31,447.31
2007-08	37,546.02
2008-09	31,627.38
2009-10	10,489.49

This does not include expenditure on overtime for staff working in other Ministers' private offices. The Department for Transport introduced a private office allowance of 20% of salary in February 2009 to replace on-call allowances, the flat rate private secretaries' allowance and most overtime payments.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the effect of the increase in the standard rate of value added tax on his Department's annual expenditure. [31177]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport's forward expenditure plans in the spending review took account of the VAT increase in January 2011—where relevant:

> For those supplies where VAT is recoverable, there will be no impact on planned spend. For instance, VAT paid on certain services contracted out by the Highway's Agency is recovered (over £300 million a year: this recovery is consistent powers under section 41 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994);
>
> For those supplies where the VAT is non recoverable, the impact of the VAT rise has been factored into future budgets.

This is a common approach across all Government Departments. As a result, departmental spending review settlements are set on a tax-inclusive basis, including the increase to the standard rate of VAT.

East Coast Main Line

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what criteria he used in making his decision on the future of the East Coast Main Line franchise; [30584]

(2) what criteria he used in making his decision on the future of the Greater Anglia franchise. [30585]

Mrs Villiers: The timing and length of future franchises was announced on 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-18WS, with a longer 15 year franchise planned to commence in 2012 for East Coast, and 2013 for Greater Anglia. An important criterion for the decisions on commencement dates was the aim to better align incentives between Network Rail and train operators. These reforms are currently under consideration by Sir Roy McNulty, as set out in his interim report published alongside the 7 December announcement. The previously planned retendering schedule for Greater Anglia would not have allowed time for such reforms to be included in the new franchise.

High Speed Trains

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department's public consultation on the route for High Speed 2 will invite consideration of the principle that high speed rail links be built; and if he will make a statement. [26781]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 29 November 2010]*: Yes.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans for Maidstone to be linked to the High Speed Network. [30743]

Mrs Villiers: Following the meeting which I had with the hon. Member for Maidstone and The Weald and other hon. Members representing Kent constituencies on 27 July 2010, Department for Transport officials have been working in conjunction with Southeastern to assess the service provision to stations in Maidstone and analyse where improvements to the level of service provision can be made.

Any options which are considered in this respect will be predicated on the need to be affordable and provide value for money.

High Speed Two: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the value for money of the High Speed Two project. [31251]

Mr Philip Hammond: Assessments of the value for money of High Speed Two Limited's (HS2 Ltd's) proposed high speed rail line from London to the West Midlands and of a number of options for a wider national high speed rail network are set out in Chapters 4 and 6 of HS2 Ltd's report, "High Speed Rail: London to the West Midlands and Beyond". This can be accessed on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2ltd/hs2report/

HS2 Ltd is currently reviewing its assessments of the value for money of its proposals in the light of the most recent economic forecasts and updated assessments will be published to inform the forthcoming consultation on the Government's strategy for high speed rail and the route of an initial London-West Midlands line.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the pre-project costs incurred by High Speed Two to date. [31252]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1003W.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the sum to accrue to the economy of *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* the North West from the construction of High Speed Two (i) in cash terms and (ii) as a proportion of gross value added by 2040. [31380]

Mr Philip Hammond: High Speed Two Ltd's assessment of the benefits of a new high speed line did not include any calculation of broader regional economic benefits, such as long-term GVA impacts. I am aware that both Greengauge 21 and the Northern Way have published research on this issue. Their reports are available online at:

http://www.greengauge21.net/wp-content/uploads/consequences-for-employment.pdf

and at:

http://www.thenorthernway.co.uk/document.asp?id=451

It should be noted that these long-term regional economic effects are complex and challenging to predict and some of the methodologies that have been employed to calculate them are comparatively untested. On the basis of the research above, however, it appears reasonable to conclude that they have the potential to be significant.

High Speed Two: Public Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the exceptional hardship scheme for High Speed Two. [31248]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Department for Transport estimates that around £25 million may be required to fund property purchases under the exceptional hardship scheme in each of the 2010-11 and 2011-12 financial years, although actual expenditure will depend on applications received. The final cost of the scheme to the public purse will also depend on the level of rental and/or sales income derived from any properties purchased under the scheme.

Internet

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on its departmental website since May 2010. [30801]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 15 December 2010]*: The Department for Transport (DfT) has spent £264,977 on its departmental website between the period 1 June 2010 and 30 November 2010.

Departmental website costs for previous years are as follows:

Financial year	*DfT corporate website costs (£)*
2009-10	707,072
2008-09	749,819
2007-08	674,451
2006-07	1.5 million

The Department is currently working to converge appropriate content to Directgov, Business Link and the corporate site and is committed to a programme of website rationalisation. The Department aims to close 97% of departmental websites listed for closure by end March 2011. The Department is also looking at opportunities to reduce website costs through shared platforms and new and emerging technologies.

Costs provided are those incurred in payment to external suppliers and do not include internal staff costs.

Large Goods Vehicles

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what his policy is on the European Commission's proposal to restrict all semi-trailers built under whole vehicle tyre approval to four metres in height; and if he will make a statement; [32498]

(2) what representations he has received on the proposed restrictions on semi-trailers built under whole vehicle tyre approval to four metres in height. [32499]

Mike Penning: The Government's policy is to resist the four metre height limit and other aspects of the Commission's draft proposal that make fundamental changes to existing requirements. Following a request for evidence on the potential impacts of the proposal, the Department for Transport has received replies from trade associations and individual companies. These indicate that the impact could be significant and the Department will be pressing the Commission and other member states to maintain the status quo.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities between 2000 and 2010 were recorded as having been caused by freight lorries jack-knifing; [32805]

(2) what recent progress his Department has made on reducing the number of accidents caused by jack-knifed lorries. [32806]

Mike Penning: The following table shows the number of reported personal injury road accidents and consequential fatal casualties in accidents where at least one heavy goods vehicle (3.5 tonnes or over) was reported to have jack-knifed. The latest year for which information is available is 2009. Statistics are not available for accidents where no personal injury occurred.

It is not possible to determine from the data whether the HGV in question caused the accident.

Reported personal injury road accidents and consequential fatal casualties in accidents involving a jack-knifed heavy goods vehicle (over 3.5 tonnes): Great Britain 2000-09

	Accidents	Fatalities
2000	175	18
2001	156	16
2002	155	19
2003	152	19
2004	145	10
2005	142	23
2006	142	15
2007	98	10
2008	116	11
2009	92	6

In 2002 our national legislation governing the construction, equipment, maintenance and use of road vehicles (The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986) was amended to require anti-lock braking systems (ABS) on certain new heavy commercial vehicles.

Although ABS does not directly prevent jack-knifing, it can improve a vehicle's stability under braking and prevent wheel lock—a potential contributory factor in jack-knife incidents.

London and South Eastern Railways: Snow and Ice

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has had recent discussions with Southeastern on ensuring that commuters are not affected to an unreasonable extent by disruptions caused by snow and ice. [30737]

Mrs Villiers: Throughout the recent disruption due to adverse weather, Department for Transport officials were in daily contact with Southeastern. Southeastern has been fully involved with David Quarmby's audit of the winter preparedness review.

Unfortunately, extreme weather conditions will inevitably disrupt the transport system. However, both train operators and Network Rail must take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise disruption and mitigate its impacts on passengers, including providing timely and reliable information on which services are running.

London Waterloo-Twickenham Railway Line

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects work to facilitate the operation of longer trains between Twickenham and Waterloo to commence. [31985]

Mrs Villiers: Discussions between Network Rail, South West Trains and the Department for Transport are ongoing. As these are commercial negotiations it is not possible to give a firm date, but we expect the additional vehicles to be delivered on to the network before 2014.

Members: Correspondence

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to answer questions 26276 and 26277, on the Dartford Crossing, tabled by the hon. Member for Thurrock on 22 November 2010. [32421]

Mike Penning: I answered these questions on 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1299W.

Network Rail

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria he plans to use in decisions on the reform of the relationship between Network Rail and train operating companies across the rail network. [30587]

Mrs Villiers: The Government's key objective is to ensure that incentives across the rail industry are more closely aligned, so that all parties strive to reduce costs, improve service quality and provide value for money for taxpayers and passengers. Achievement of this objective will be a key criterion for making decisions on the reform of the rail sector.

Parking: Fines

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the effect on local authority parking *(a)* charges and *(b)* penalties of reductions in central Government funding for local authority transport services. [27376]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 29 November 2010]*: Parking charges are a matter for the local authority. None of the representations I have received about parking penalty charges has argued for an increase in penalty charges on the grounds of changes to government funding for local authority transport services.

Radio Frequencies

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what advice his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* received on the compatibility of charges for radio spectrum usage by the aeronautical industry with international commitments affecting that industry; [31001]

(2) what his policy is on charges for the use of the VHF radio spectrum for safety purposes by the aeronautical sector; what *(a)* recent representations he has received and *(b)* discussions he has had with (i) Ofcom, (ii) the Civil Aviation Authority and (iii) industry representatives on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [31002]

Mrs Villiers: In principle the Government support the use of market mechanisms, including pricing where appropriate, to improve the efficiency of spectrum used by the transport sector, with the provisos that safety considerations must not be compromised, international obligations must be respected and users must be given time to adjust. Departmental officials, in conjunction with the CAA, made these provisos clear to Ofcom as it prepared its new pricing structure for aeronautical spectrum.

I recently met with General Aviation representatives, including the Light Aircraft Association, who outlined their concerns at Ofcom's pricing proposals. In its statement, published on 14 December 2010, Ofcom announced the introduction of a low cost/low coverage licence specifically for aerodromes.

Railways: Concessions

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to Network Rail of providing free and concessionary rail travel to current and former employees and their families in each of the last five years. [28585]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 3 December 2010]:* The Secretary of State has not made any estimates of the cost to Network Rail of providing free and concessionary rail travel to current and former employees and their families in each of the last five years. This is a matter for Network Rail.

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* current and *(b)* former (i) employees and (ii) board members of Network Rail receive concessionary rail travel. [28587]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 3 December 2010]:* This scheme is administered by the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC).

The number of current Network Rail employees who receive concessionary rail travel is 12,146. It is not possible to break down this figure between board members and other employees.

No data for former employees are available from the Department for Transport without incurring disproportionate cost.

Railways: Fares

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation he is undertaking with passenger groups on proposed increases in rail fares; and if he will make a statement. [28778]

Mrs Villiers: Passenger Focus is the principal body that represents passenger interests. Transport Ministers regularly meet Passenger Focus to discuss matters of concern. No specific discussions have taken place between Ministers and Passenger Focus on the decision to raise the cap on rail fares for three years from 2012 onwards, although I have had discussions with a number of colleagues on the impact of fare levels in their respective constituencies.

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on ensuring that those with disabilities are not adversely affected by regulated rail fare increases of 3% above the retail price index. [32089]

Mrs Villiers: There are no plans to change the benefits provided by the Disabled Persons Railcard which entitles holders to discounts of a third against most tickets. This railcard also allows an accompanying adult to travel at the discounted level.

Railways: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on levels of employment in the railway industry of the proposed restructuring of the operation of the railway network set out in the interim report of Sir Roy McNulty's value for money review. [30574]

Mrs Villiers: The interim report was commissioned to indicate possible savings that might accrue in order to inform the comprehensive spending review process. The interim report emphasised that it was premature to make definitive recommendations at this stage. It is also too early to speculate on what impact any final recommendation might have upon employment levels.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of workshops planned to inform the final report of Sir Roy McNulty's value for money review. [30581]

Mrs Villiers: Sir Roy McNulty's review has included £13,000 in the estimate to cover the cost of workshops between now and completion of the final report. However, no workshops have yet been fixed. Unless there is a good reason to go ahead with workshops, the money will remain unspent.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to his Department of workshops undertaken prior to the publication of the interim report of Sir Roy McNulty's value for money review. [30582]

Mrs Villiers: The Sir Roy McNulty value for money review held a workshop on 19 July 2010. The aims of the workshop were to provide further information and clarification of those issues included in the recently published scoping report; and to get input from the 80 senior rail industry attendees. This informed the work being done in order to produce the final report. An earlier workshop was held prior to completion of the scoping report in March. The total cost to the Department for Transport of both workshops was £12,593 plus VAT.

Railways: Franchises

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to make decisions about rail franchises to be retendered in 2012 and 2013. [30583]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport made a written statement on 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-18WS, setting out recent decisions on the franchising programme. There are a number of further decisions that remain to be taken about individual competitions and the instructions to potential bidders. These will be announced in the coming months in order to achieve the re-letting dates.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria he plans to use to decide the length of franchises for train operating companies across the rail network. [30586]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have recently consulted on what is the appropriate length for rail franchise contracts. We intend to let longer franchise contracts, with the expectation that contracts would normally be for 15 years. However, we also recognise that specific circumstances will require longer or shorter franchises from time to time. For example, the length of the West Coast Franchise is influenced by the expected introduction of High Speed 2 services.

Railways: Passengers

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of rail passengers on journeys of over 20 minutes who had a seat for their journey in the latest period for which figures are available. [31247]

Mrs Villiers: The information is not available in the form requested. The Department for Transport holds passenger counts data collected by train operators. However, information on whether passengers were standing or seated is not collected.

Railways: Standards

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of reducing rail congestion in metropolitan areas. [31249]

Mrs Villiers: The effects of transport schemes on the economy are assessed as part of the Department for Transport's appraisal process. The Department for Transport takes account of factors such as reductions in crowding and journey times through an assessment of transport user benefits. Promoters of rail schemes in metropolitan areas are encouraged to use the Department's guidance on estimating the wider economic impacts of the proposal. The Department's appraisal guidance, WebTAG, is available online at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/webtag/

Railways: Suicide

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to reduce the incidence of suicides on the rail network in those areas with a high incidence. [30647]

Mrs Villiers: Action to prevent suicides on the railways is a matter of operational rail safety, which is the responsibility of Network Rail, operators and the independent rail safety regulator. However, when I met with them in August 2010, I was pleased to support the joint Network Rail/Samaritans initiative to reduce suicides on the railways by 20% in five years.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with train operating companies on the prevention of suicide on the rail network following the launch of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [30731]

Mrs Villiers: Suicides on the railways is a matter of operational safety, which is the responsibility of Network Rail, operators and the independent rail safety regulator.

However, during regular meetings with senior representatives from the rail industry, I have discussed the joint initiative between Network Rail and the Samaritans to reduce suicides on the railway by 20% in five years, which I am happy to support.

Railways: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what means Welsh Assembly Government Ministers are able to contribute requirements into the high level output specification for the rail network. [31609]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport Ministers and the Deputy First Minister have discussed major rail proposals. Welsh Assembly Government officials are working with the Department on advance planning for the next High Level Output Specification.

Road Safety: Finance

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the change in funding from his Department to local authorities through the Road Safety Grant has been in the financial year 2010-11. [17160]

Mike Penning: The Government have made clear that an urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record deficit in order to restore confidence in our economy and support the recovery. As a contribution to addressing the record deficit, we therefore have reduced the previous plans for local authority funding in 2010-11.

Central Government's financial support grant to local authorities is provided through a variety of mechanisms, such as formula grant (including the revenue support grant), specific grants and specific capital grants.

The Government are clear that local government needs increased flexibility to take decisions locally. It has therefore retained the most flexible funding (formula grant) for 2010-11 at the level approved previously by Parliament (£29 billion). We have also lifted restrictions on how local government spends its money by removing ring-fences.

We expect local authorities to be able to make savings from efficiency measures, eliminating waste and, where necessary, reducing spending in areas that are lower priorities for their communities. The fact that certain grants have been chosen for reduction over others, does not mean that the Government expect there to be a direct correlation between grant reductions and local authority budget changes. For example, road safety grant was reduced as this grant was spread evenly across all local authorities, not because this was considered an area of lower priority spending.

Therefore the road safety area based revenue funding for 2010-11 has been reduced by about 26.6% from approximately £77.3 million to approximately £56.7 million. The road safety capital grant for 2010-11 is not being paid and had been planned to total about £17.2 million.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* road-gritters and *(b)* snow ploughs local authorities purchased in each year since 2007. [30434]

Norman Baker: Information on how many *(a)* road-gritters and *(b)* snow ploughs have been purchased by local authorities in each year since 2007 is not held centrally.

The following table provides figures of gritting vehicles and snow ploughs that have been registered by the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency in each year since 2007.

End of year	*Gritting vehicle*	*Snow plough*
2009	3,285	429
2008	3,060	450
2007	2,897	470

Information is not yet available for 2010. In addition, some highway authorities fit snow plough attachments to their salt spreading vehicles.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the first cascaded rail carriages to be operational on routes between Manchester and Liverpool. [28000]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 2 December 2010]:* Electric services on routes between Manchester and Liverpool are expected to commence from December 2013. Completion of the remaining electrification programme for the North West is scheduled to complete by December 2016 allowing commencement of electric services.

Southeastern Trains

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what revenue support payments have been *(a)* provided to date and *(b)* allocated to Southeastern Trains under his Department's revenue share and support model; [32900]

(2) what the criteria are for providing revenue support to Southeastern Trains under his Department's revenue share and support model. [32901]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport (DfT) pays revenue support to the Integrated Kent Franchise operated by Southeastern on a periodic basis; however, this information is commercially sensitive and is provided subject to an express duty of confidence. As such it cannot be disclosed.

The Department does not expressly 'allocate' revenue support under the revenue share and support model. The value of revenue support is determined through the application of criteria and formulae stated in the National Rail Franchising Terms (NRFT), which is available from the DfT Website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current/lser/lsernational.pdf

The relevant sections pertaining to revenue support are contained under schedule 8, specifically pages 151 to 154.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of revenue South Eastern Trains received *(a)* through his Department's share and support model scheme and *(b)* from passenger revenue collection in the latest period for which figures are available. [32903]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is provided with information on passenger and other revenues from each train operating company under the terms of each franchise agreement. This information is commercially sensitive and is provided subject to an express duty of confidence. As such it cannot be disclosed.

Sustainable Transport Fund

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what mechanism the Local Sustainable Transport Fund will enable local authorities to continue to participate in nationally co-ordinated programmes; and if he will make a statement. [29945]

Norman Baker: The Local Sustainable Transport Fund represents a move away from programmes co-ordinated at a national level, and towards local authorities delivering at local level sustainable transport measures that meet the needs of local communities.

Guidance on the operation of the Fund will be published shortly. This will encourage local authorities to work together and in partnership with external organisations such as sustainable travel groups in identifying the measures that deliver the greatest benefit for communities. If local authorities wish to be part of a scheme which runs over several local authority boundaries, they would be able to submit a joint bid to the Fund, with one authority taking the lead.

I also refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement I made on 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 82-84WS.

Train Operating Companies: Weather

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he *(a)* took and *(b)* plans to take to monitor the performance of (i) Network Rail and (ii) train operating companies during the winter weather of November and December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [29627]

Mrs Villiers: The performance of rail services is monitored throughout the year by the Department for Transport in accordance with the terms of franchise agreements. Network Rail performance is monitored and regulated by the Office of Rail Regulation.

In addition, I meet regularly with senior representatives of the rail industry to review performance and to discuss action to maintain and improve reliability. Seasonal preparations are an important part of these monitoring meetings.

During the ongoing problems with severe weather, Ministers and officials have kept in regular contact with affected operators and Network Rail including through meetings and phone conferences.

Rail performance during late November and early December has also been audited by David Quarmby whose report was published 21 December 2010.

Trams

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress has been made on his Department's trial of tram-trains; and if he will make a statement. [32002]

Mrs Villiers: Considerable progress has been made during the last year on the proposed Tram Train Pilot in Sheffield. This includes the development of a feasibility design for the infrastructure changes and new stations, the ongoing development of a model for operating both tramway and main line services and the initial stages of procuring and financing the tram train vehicles. This work will enable the Department for Transport to understand the costs and benefits of this pilot and the potential for future introduction of tram train services elsewhere.

Transport: Public Appointments

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the incoming permanent secretary for his Department was selected; who sat on the appointments panel; and what previous experience of transport policy was demonstrated by the successful applicant. [31055]

Norman Baker: The incoming permanent secretary for the Department for Transport (Lin Homer) was selected on 2 December 2010.

The selection panel was made up of Dame Janet Paraskeva (First Civil Service Commissioner), Sir Gus O'Donnell (Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service), Sir Leigh Lewis (permanent secretary, Department for Work and Pensions) and Ed Smith (non-executive director, Department for Transport).

Ms Homer's previous experience of transport policy stems from her local authority days, latterly as chief executive of Birmingham city council, the largest local authority in the UK, where she had responsibility for highways, public transport and airports. Earlier in her career, she acted as legal advisor on transport schemes, including road inquiries, compulsory purchase order work and commercial matters.

Transport: Snow and Ice

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contingency plans his Department has made to respond to flooding on the transport network resulting from melting snow. [32756]

Norman Baker: Transport operators and highway authorities have well-established mitigation arrangements and contingency plans in place to cover a range of seasonal weather conditions, including all aspects of flooding. The Department for Transport works with the Met Office and the Environment Agency to pay particular attention to possible impacts on transport networks. The ministerial winter resilience network has regularly reviewed the risk of flooding that might arise from melting snow.

Transport: Standards

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether decisions to proceed with local authority major transport schemes will be taken using the new appraisal methodology; [31487]

(2) whether local authority major transport schemes included in the development pool will be subject to the new appraisal methodology. [31488]

Norman Baker: Decisions on whether or not to proceed with local authority schemes will be made using a range of criteria and in a way that is consistent with the wider reform of decision making, on which an announcement will be made soon.

As set out in the document "Investment in Local Major Transport Schemes" the criteria to be used for local authority schemes are likely to include:

Value for money

The proportion of overall funding contributions from non-Department for Transport sources

Deliverability

Strategic Importance

A consideration of modal and regional balance across the programme.

In respect of the value for money element, decisions on which schemes in the Pre-Qualification Pool may join the Development Pool will be based on existing Department for Transport appraisal guidance with some adjustments to reflect the priorities of the new Government, for example on carbon and indirect tax effects. For Development Pool schemes, on which decisions will be made at the end of 2011, value for money will be assessed using new appraisal guidance to be published in April 2011.

Transport: Voluntary Organisations

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential role of the voluntary sector in delivering active travel programmes sponsored by his Department. [30817]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport recognises that the voluntary sector has potentially an important role to play in the design and delivery of sustainable travel solutions.

My statement of the 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 82-84WS, on the Local Sustainable Transport Fund made clear that bids from local transport authorities will be particularly welcomed if they can demonstrate support from, and the involvement of, voluntary and community organisations, and the private sector. Detailed guidance on the operation of the fund will be published shortly.

Virgin Rail: West Coast Railway Line

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of new carriages required by Virgin Rail Projects Ltd for the west coast Main line. [27666]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has authorised the purchase of an additional 106 new Pendolino carriages, including four new 11-car trains.

Analysis by the Department for Transport indicated that the capacity and future development of the route would be best met by a mix of nine-car and 11-car Pendolino trains supplemented by a fleet of Voyagers.

Waterloo Station

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse of maintenance of Waterloo International terminal has been in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [30576]

Mrs Villiers: The cost of maintenance of the Waterloo International terminal since the transfer of ownership to BRB (Residuary) Limited, which covers the last three years only, is as follows:

		£000
2008-09	Actual	534
2009-10	Actual	505
2010-11	Budget	500

The Government are committed to ensuring that the former Eurostar platforms at Waterloo International terminal are brought back into use for domestic passenger services.

West Coast Railway Line: Overcrowding

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the level of overcrowding of West Coast main line services out of Euston station at peak times; and if he will make a statement. [27719]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport receives passenger counts data from train operators for travel on weekdays during spring and autumn survey periods. The latest data for west coast main line departures from Euston show that across the spring count period, the average load exceeded the planned capacity on 1.4% of services counted.

Detailed crowding information for the west coast main line may be available directly from the operator at the following address:

Customer Relations
Virgin Trains
FREEPOST BM 6613
PO Box 713
Birmingham
B5 4HH.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Terrorism: Offenders

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* discussions he has had and *(b)* representations he has received on the issue of on-the-runs since 6 May 2010. [31984]

Mr Paterson: The issue of on-the-runs has been raised with me by representatives of various political parties during our regular discussions.

SCOTLAND

Prisoners: Voting

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Interim Elections Management Board on the Government's proposals for voting by prisoners. [32484]

Michael Moore: The Government set out their position on the voting rights of prisoners in a statement to Parliament on 20 December 2010. The Government will be working closely with the Scottish Government and others before legislation is introduced on the practical implications of the approach.

Sea Rescue: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the proposed closure of coastguard stations in Scotland. [32483]

Michael Moore: On 16 December 2010, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency published a consultation with proposals to modernise the national Coastguard service. These include the establishment of a Maritime Operations Centre in Aberdeen and a sub-centre at either Shetland or Stornoway to replace the existing five Scottish Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres. I have discussed this issue, and others that affect Scotland, with the Secretary of State for Transport.

PRIME MINISTER

Taxation

Mr Spellar: To ask the Prime Minister what steps are taken before the award of honours to establish whether recipients and their companies pay tax in the UK. [32523]

The Prime Minister: Before candidates for honours are recommended to the Queen, inquiries are made to establish that they are not in breach of national laws.

Visits Abroad

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Prime Minister how many overseas visits he has undertaken since his appointment; and what the *(a)* duration and *(b)* purpose of each visit was. [32588]

The Prime Minister: As set out in the Ministerial Code, details of all my overseas travel are published at least quarterly. Details of my overseas travel from May to September 2010 have been published on the No. 10 website at:

http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/who.php

HOME DEPARTMENT

Assisted Return Scheme

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on the assisted return scheme in each of the last 12 months. [32543]

Damian Green: The total UK Border Agency cost of the assisted voluntary returns scheme for 2009-10 was £16.1 million giving an average monthly cost of £1.3 million.

Costs for the current financial year 2010-11 will be available once the 2010-11 accounts have been audited.

Asylum

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 546W, on asylum: deportation, how many of the 176 asylum seekers who have absconded after receiving deportation notices since May 2010 have subsequently been detained. [31729]

Damian Green: We have assumed 'deportation notices' to mean 'removal notices'.

Between 1 May 2010 and 31 October 2010, 176 failed asylum seekers (main applicants and their dependants) absconded after being served with removal directions. Of these 176 asylum seekers, 42 have subsequently been detained between 1 May 2010 and 10 December 2010, the UK Border Agency is currently in contact with an additional 15, and a further two were removed from the UK without being served removal directions.

Asylum Seekers

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many adult asylum seekers had been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused permission to remain in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [32542]

Damian Green: The information requested is not available. In order to produce the information the statistics on asylum applications and statistics on settlement would need to be cross referenced at disproportionate cost.

Statistics are published on the number of asylum applications, initial decisions and outcomes of appeal hearings.

Separately, information is published on grants and refusals of leave to remain and settlement (which will include data on both asylum and non- asylum applicants).

These data are published in the Control of Immigration publications available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The latest published data on asylum applications and initial decisions are provided in the following tables.

Applications received for asylum in the United Kingdom, excluding dependents, by location of application, and initial decisions[1, 2], Q1 2007 to Q3 2010

Number of principal applicants

	Applications received			*Initial decisions*						
					Cases considered under normal procedures					
Qtr/year	*Total applications*	*Applied at port*	*Applied in country*	*Total initial decisions*	*Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum*		*Recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection*		*Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave*	
2007										
Q1	5,720	820	4,895	6,050	900	(15)	30	(1)	565	(9)
Q2	4,960	810	4,150	5,930	835	(14)	40	(1)	520	(9)
Q3	5,885	1,040	4,845	5,225	910	(17)	30	(1)	590	(11)
Q4	6,870	965	5,900	4,570	900	(20)	25	(1)	395	(9)
2007 total	23,430	3,635	19,795	21,775	3,545	(16)	125	(1)	2,075	(10)
2008										
Q1	6,645	705	5,940	4,455	915	(21)	25	(1)	455	(10)
Q2	5,830	655	5,175	5,010	995	(20)	20	(0)	540	(11)
Q3	6,685	685	6,000	5,230	870	(17)	25	(0)	540	(10)
Q4	6,775	680	6,095	4,700	945	(20)	25	(0)	540	(11)
2008 total	25,930	2,720	23,210	19,400	3,725	(19)	95	(0)	2,075	(11)
2009[3]										
Q1	8,430	545	7,880	5,080	1,480	(29)	20	(0)	600	(12)
Q2	6,110	470	5,640	5,690	1,025	(18)	15	(0)	610	(11)
Q3	5,110	505	4,605	7,155	865	(12)	25	(0)	650	(9)

Applications received for asylum in the United Kingdom, excluding dependents, by location of application, and initial decisions[1] [2], Q1 2007 to Q3 2010

Number of principal applicants

	Applications received			*Initial decisions*						
					Cases considered under normal procedures					
Qtrl year	*Total applications*	*Applied at port*	*Applied in country*	*Total initial decisions*	*Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum*		*Recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection*		*Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave*	
Q4	4,840	490	4,350	6,360	815	(13)	30	(0)	600	(9)
2009 total	24,485	2,010	22,475	24 285	4,190	(17)	95	(0)	2,460	(10)
2010[5]										
Q1	4,355	395	3,955	5,445	795	(15)	20	(0)	500	(9)
Q2	4,365	415	3,950	5,220	775	(15)	20	(0)	440	(8)
Q3	4,440	430	4,010	5,060	895	(18)	25	(0)	360	(7)

Number of principal applicants

	Initial decisions											
	Cases considered under norm al procedures											
	Refusals										*of which:*	
	Total refused		*Refused asylum and exceptional leave after full consideration*		*Refused on safe third party grounds*		*Refused on non-compliance grounds*		*Applications withdrawn*		*Non-substantiated claims*[3]	*Applications outstanding at end of period*[4]
2007												
Q1	4,555	(75)	3,695	(61)	345	(6)	515	(9)	255		n/a	5,800
Q2	4,530	(76)	3,655	(62)	310	(5)	565	(10)	[illegible]05		n/a	4,500
Q3	3,695	(71)	2,860	(55)	295	(6)	540	(10)	335		n/a	4,800
Q4	3,250	(71)	2,420	(53)	340	(7)	490	(11)	335		n/a	6,800
2007 total	16,030	(74)	12,630	(58)	1,290	(6)	2,115	(10)	1,230		n/a	6,800
2008												
Q1	3,060	(69)	2,225	(50)	435	(10)	405	(9)	375		n/a	8,600
Q2	3,455	(69)	2,760	(55)	425	(9)	265	(5)	555		175	8,900
Q3	3,795	(73)	3,220	(62)	425	(8)	150	(3)	810		420	9,500
Q4	3,195	(68)	2,785	(59)	385	(8)	25	(1)	1,005		610	10,600
2008 total	13,505	(70)	10,990	(57)	1,670	(9)	845	(4)	2,740		1,210	10,600
2009[5]												
Q1	2,980	(59)	2,550	(50)	395	(8)	35	(1)	875		485	13,000
Q2	4,045	(71)	3,475	(61)	540	(9)	25	(0)	810		445	12,600
Q3	5,615	(78)	5,055	(71)	530	(7)	30	(0)	950		515	9,700
Q4	4,910	(77)	4,485	(71)	405	(6)	20	(0)	710		345	7,400
2009 total	17,545	(72)	15,565	(64)	1,875	(8)	105	(0)	3,345		1,790	7,400
2010[5]												
Q1	4,130	(76)	3,785	(70)	325	(6)	20	(0)	735		365	5,600
Q2	3,985	(76)	3,660	(70)	300	(6)	25	(1)	615		295	4,100
Q3	3,780	(75)	3,430	(68)	315	(6)	35	(1)	750		350	2,800

n/a = not applicable

[1] Figures (other than percentages) rounded to the nearest five (— = 0, * = one or two). Applications outstanding rounded to nearest 100. Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

[3] Where an applicant fails to attend an initial interview and therefore fails to substantiate their claim, their claim is treated as withdrawn. Data not available prior to April 2008.

[4] Figures rounded to the nearest 100. The [illegible] on asylum cases awaiting an initial decision is based on a combination of different sources of information, including a manual count at the end of August 2[illegible] [illegible]ich may have led to discrepancies over time. See the 'Introduction' section of the Control of Immigration: statistical summary, Q3 2010 for details on p[illegible] [illegible]evelopments for this series.

[5] Provisional figures.

Asylum: Children

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unaccompanied children aged *(a)* under five years, *(b)* between six and 11 and *(c)* between 12 and 16 years are awaiting a decision on an application for asylum. [32541]

Damian Green: As of 21 December 2010, the numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) awaiting a decision on an application for asylum were:

(a) four children under five years old.

(b) 12 children between six and 11 years old.

(c) 276 children between 12 and 16 years old.

The length of time an applicant has been awaiting an asylum decision will vary depending upon the applicant's age when they entered the UK.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

More information regarding asylum claims for unaccompanied children can be found in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary: United Kingdom—Third Quarter 2010, Supplementary Excel Tables 2c, 2d and 2e. This is available on the Home Office website at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Government plans to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. [30336]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 13 December 2010]*: The United Kingdom Government take the sexual exploitation and abuse of children very seriously. We are currently in the process of assessing compliance with the Articles of the Convention.

Cybercrime

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cyber attacks against targets in the UK have been recorded since 2000; what the nature was of each such attack; and from what *(a)* IP address and *(b)* country each such attack originated. [29552]

James Brokenshire: The Government take the issue of cyber security very seriously and have recently announced additional funding of £650 million to protect the United Kingdom (UK) from threats from cyberspace. This work is managed by the Office of Cyber Security and Information Assurance (OCSIA), and they lead the work of all relevant Government Departments and agencies to ensure that the UK response is co-ordinated to deal with these threats. It would not be in the interests of the UK's national security to provide further details of cyber attacks against Government ICT systems. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

Cybercrime: EU Action

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on tackling cyber attacks. [31529]

Nick Herbert: The UK Government continues to work closely with counterparts within the European Commission, representatives of European member states and the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) to increase levels of network security and resilience against cyber attacks.

Demonstrations: Parliament Square

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will discuss with Westminster city council its estimate of the time it will take to repair the pavement area around the grass in Parliament square; [32430]

(2) if she will discuss with the Mayor of London his estimate of the time it will take to restore Parliament square to its condition before the encampment of demonstrators. [32431]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has regular discussions with the Greater London authority and Westminster city council about the condition of Parliament square to ensure that this historic site can be used and enjoyed by everyone.

Departmental Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many agency workers her Department and its agencies employ at each pay grade. [28504]

Nick Herbert: The data in the following table represent the number of agency workers currently employed by Home Office Headquarters, UK Border Agency, Identity Passport Service, and Criminal Records Bureau. The total number of full-time equivalent staff working in the Department and its agencies is 30,043.7.

Grade	*HOHQ*	*UKBA*	*CRB*	*IPS*
AA	1	50	0	0
AO	3	113	0	0
EO	13	19	0	0
HEO	4	4	0	0
SEO	2	0	1	0
SEC	0	4	0	0
PA	1	1	0	0

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff employed by her Department were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [31220]

Nick Herbert: There were no employees paid at a rate less than the London living wage in November 2010.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the effect of the increase in the standard rate of value added tax on her Department's annual expenditure. [31182]

Nick Herbert: It is not possible to provide an estimate of the increase in VAT on Home Office expenditure without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental spending review settlements are set on a tax-inclusive basis, including the increase to the standard rate of VAT.

Detention Centres: Children

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children aged *(a)* under five, *(b)* six to 11 and *(c)* 12 to 16 years are being held in each immigration detention centre. [32546]

Damian Green: The latest published figures show that of the five children (figure rounded to the nearest five) detained in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre as at 30 September 2010, fewer than three children were held in each of the *(a)* under five, *(b)* six to 11 and *(c)* 12 to 16 age groups. Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre was the only centre that held children aged 16 or under as at 30 September 2010.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

I refer the right hon. Gentleman to my written ministerial statement of 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 125-127WS, which included the announcement of the immediate closure of Yarl's Wood to children. This Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes.

Drugs

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of the control of mephedrone on levels of use of *(a)* mephedrone and *(b)* cocaine and amphetamines. [32612]

James Brokenshire: There has been no assessment of the effects on the level of use of mephedrone, cocaine and amphetamines following the control of mephedrone under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

New questions on mephedrone were included in the British crime survey in April 2010. The results will be available in 2011. Seizure data on mephedrone, cocaine and amphetamines for 2010-11 will also be available in the autumn of 2011.

Firearms: Licensing

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for a firearms licence were refused in each of the last five years in *(a)* Newcastle upon Tyne and *(b)* the UK. [31697]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 20 December 2010]*: Data on refused firearm certificates are available for England and Wales and can be broken down only by police force area. The available data therefore relate to refused new and renewal firearm certificates in England and Wales and Northumbria police force and are given in the following table. These are taken from the most recent Home Office Statistical Bulletin on firearm certificates, which is available at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0510.pdf

Due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) in 2006, firearm certificates data for 2006-07 are not available centrally. Data for 2009-10 are scheduled for publication in March 2010.

New and renewal firearm certificate applications refused in Northumbria police force and England and Wales, 2004-05 to 2008-09

Number[1]

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[2]	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Northumbria					
New applications refused	2	2	—	—	2
Renewal applications refused	1	1	—	2	1
England and Wales					
New applications refused	150	90	—	123	133
Renewal applications refused	10	40	—	50	24

[1] Figures up to 2005-06 are rounded; since 2007-08 figures are unrounded.

[2] Figures are not available due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) in 2006.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* shotgun and *(b)* firearm certificate applications were refused in (i) Cumbria, (ii) Cornwall and (iii) Berkshire in the last 12 months. [32749]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office collects data on the number of applications for shotgun and firearms certificates which were refused at police force area level. As such, data are provided in Tables A and B for (i) Cumbria, (ii) Devon and Cornwall and (iii) Thames Valley. Data are provided for 2008-09 as these are the latest data currently available. Further information can be found in 'Firearm Certificates in England and Wales 2008/09' on the Home Office website at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0510.pdf

Table A: Shotgun certificates—applications for grant and renewal, 2008-09, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall and Thames Valley

Number

	Applications			
	New applications		*Renewal applications*	
Police force area	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*
Cumbria	370	2	335	
Devon and Cornwall	1,039	17	851	3
Thames Valley	1,426	19	1,355	6

Table B: Firearm certificates—applications for grant, renewal and variation, 2008/09, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall and Thames Valley

Number

	Applications					
	New applications		*Renewal applications*		*Variation of certificate*	
Police force area	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*
Cumbria	207	2	207	—	185	1
Devon and Cornwall	657	6	453	—	508	1
Thames Valley	441	2	482	—	328	1

Data for 2009-10 are scheduled for publication in March 2011.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* shotgun and *(b)* firearm certificate applications were refused in the (i) Metropolitan Police Service area, (ii) West Midlands Police Service area and (iii) Greater Manchester police service area in the last 12 months. [32750]

James Brokenshire: Data are provided at police force area level in Tables A and B for (i) Metropolitan police, (ii) west midlands and (iii) Greater Manchester. Data are provided for 2008-09 as these are the latest data currently available. Further information can be found in 'Firearm Certificates in England and Wales 2008/09' on the Home Office website at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0510.pdf

Table A: Shotgun certificates—applications for grant and renewal, 2008-09, Metropolitan police, west midlands, Greater Manchester

Number

	Applications			
	New applications		*Renewal applications*	
Police force area	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*
Metropolitan police	1,750	52	1,346	10
West midlands	343	5	294	1
Greater Manchester	513	14	481	1

Table B: Firearm certificates—applications for grant, renewal and variation, 2008-09, Metropolitan police, west midlands and Greater Manchester

Number

	Applications					
	New applications		*Renewal applications*		*Variation of certificate*	
Police force area	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*
Metropolitan police	358	13	269	3	248	2
West midlands	145	1	163	—	158	—
Greater Manchester	179	7	192	2	157	—

Data for 2009-10 are scheduled for publication in March 2011.

Human Trafficking

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet Unseen (UK) to discuss the Government's proposed new policy on combating human trafficking. [31313]

Damian Green: The voluntary sector plays a key role in the identification of, and provision of support to, victims of human trafficking. We are strongly supportive of this role and will continue to work in partnership with voluntary organisations to reduce the incidence of human trafficking.

Home Office officials will shortly be contacting non-governmental organisations to discuss development of the forthcoming strategy on human trafficking.

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with representatives of non-governmental organisations on her Department's strategy on combating human trafficking. [31908]

Damian Green *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* Home Office officials will shortly be contacting non-governmental organisations to discuss development of the forthcoming strategy on human trafficking.

The voluntary sector plays a key role in the identification of, and provision of support to, victims of human trafficking. We are strongly supportive of this role and will continue to work in partnership with voluntary organisations to reduce the incidence of human trafficking.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to encourage information sharing between police forces in respect of human trafficking offences. [32487]

Damian Green: The sharing of such information is an operational matter for chief constables.

The UK established the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) in 2006 as the repository of information on human trafficking and a centre of co-ordination for law enforcement efforts in combating human trafficking, including the provision of tactical advice through its 24-hour helpline.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there were for offences relating to child trafficking in each year since 2007. [32398]

Damian Green: There is no central record that holds details of the age of the victim in cases of human trafficking that have resulted in a conviction.

Immigration Controls

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that under her proposed changes to the immigration system, only *(a)* senior managers and *(b)* key specialists are permitted entry to the UK by means of the intra-company transfer scheme. [32326]

Damian Green: From April 2011, the Government will set a minimum salary requirement of £40,000 for intra-company transferees entering for over 12 months, ensuring that extended transfers are available only to managers and specialists. Other transferees will be able to enter for up to 12 months so long as they are paid at least £24,000.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter sent to her by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 2 November 2010 with regard to Ms N Mahmeed. [30593]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 December 2010]*: I apologise for the delay in replying. The Minister for Security and Counter-Terrorism, my noble Friend Baroness Neville-Jones, replied on 17 December 2010. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Police: Demonstrations

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether (1) she has received any representations from *(a)* the police and *(b)* other (i) individuals and (ii) organisations on the policing and conduct of the demonstrations held on 24 November 2010; [28511]

(2) she plans to report to the House on the policing of demonstrations in central London and elsewhere on 24 November 2010; [28529]

(3) she has had discussions with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) on *(a)* the containment practices deployed to maintain public order at demonstrations and *(b)* the MPS's assessment of containment practices on 24 November 2010; [28647]

(4) *(a)* she and *(b)* the Minister for Policing have requested a report from the Metropolitan Police Service on the policing of the demonstrations in Whitehall on 24 November 2010; and whether it is her policy to request reports in cases of public disorder as a matter of course. [28648]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has received a wide range of representations about the policing of the student protest on 24 November 2010. The Home Office also received a short report from the Metropolitan police which covered the use of containment to maintain public order. The Government may seek reports from the police where there has been public disorder in order to respond to public and parliamentary interest and to help inform the development of Government policy. There are no plans to make a statement to the House about the protests on 24 November.

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the cost to the public purse was of policing the demonstrations in *(a)* the area around Parliament and *(b)* other areas of London on 9 December 2010; [31862]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of policing the demonstrations in the area around Parliament on 24 November 2010; [31863]

(3) what the cost to the public purse was of policing the demonstrations in the area around Parliament on 10 November 2010 *(a)* before and *(b)* after the incidents at Millbank Tower. [31864]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold this information.

Police: Training

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether training is available to police officers to help them recognise emotional distress and anxiety in people who are suicidal; and if she will make a statement. [31472]

Nick Herbert: On joining the police service all police officers undertake a two-year programme called the Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP). The IPLDP includes topics that help police officers recognise emotional distress and anxiety in people no matter what the cause.

Special Constables: Greater London

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of deploying special constables as a means of increasing police visibility in London. [31544]

Nick Herbert: The Government are strongly supportive of special constables. Decisions relating to their deployment are the responsibility of chief officers of individual police forces, in accordance with local policing priorities.

Visas: Students

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the removal of *(a)* the two-year post-study visa and *(b)* the highly-skilled visa on (i) student numbers and (ii) revenue of universities offering MSc and MBA courses to overseas students. [32562]

Damian Green: The two-year post-study work and highly-skilled visas relate to work in the UK not to study, so there will be no direct impact of changes to these routes on universities.

We are presently consulting on the proposals to reform the student visa route, which will provide an opportunity for education providers to comment on the impact of the proposal to close the Tier 1 post-study work route. International students with a job offer are able to take employment through Tier 2 of the points based system upon graduation.

Visas: TB Screening Programme

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the effectiveness of the TB Visa Screening Programme. [32394]

Damian Green: UK Border Agency and Department of Health officials are undertaking an interim review of the effectiveness of the pilot TB Visa Screening programme. Visa applicants from 15 countries who intend to travel to and remain in the United Kingdom for a period of over six months are screened for TB by the International Organization for Migration. The outcome of the review and any recommendations arising will inform subsequent discussions between Home Office and Health Department Ministers.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Standards

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Attorney-General what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Crown Prosecution Service. [32348]

The Attorney-General: The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) recently introduced a system to monitor performance against the CPS core quality standards. The CPS is subject to regular independent inspection by Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI), whose reports on thematic topics and on CPS areas are published on their website. Additionally the Solicitor-General and I pay frequent visits to CPS offices throughout the country. I also meet regularly with both the DPP and the Chief Inspector of HMCSPI to discuss CPS performance.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Hywel Williams: To ask the Attorney-General what recent estimate he has made of the effect of the increase in the standard rate of value added tax on the Law Officers' Departments' annual expenditure. [31192]

The Attorney-General: The departmental spending review settlements for the Law Officers' Departments are set on a tax-inclusive basis, including the increase in standard VAT.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences: Prosecutions

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Attorney-General what steps his Department plans to take to seek to increase the conviction rate for offences of *(a)* domestic violence and *(b)* sexual assault. [32317]

The Attorney-General: Improving prosecutions and support for victims in violence against women (VAW) cases is a priority for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The CPS keeps under review its specific policies on prosecuting cases of domestic violence and rape. In January 2011, the CPS will launch a new VAW assurance scheme to help further improve VAW prosecutions. Convictions in domestic violence cases rose from 65% to 72% between 2006-07 and 2009-10. During that period, convictions for rape rose from 54% to 59%; and for sexual offences other than rape, from 68% to 76%.

Rape and Hate Crimes: Prosecutions

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General how many prosecutors specialising in *(a)* rape and *(b)* hate crime cases there were in each year since 2005. [31072]

The Attorney-General: We are unable to provide figures for each year since 2005, but the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has trained and appointed a significant number of prosecutors as specialist rape prosecutors as part of a rolling programme in all 42 CPS areas. The appointment of specialist rape prosecutors is the responsibility of local Chief Crown Prosecutors (CCPs), who appoint specialist prosecutors in accordance with the requirements of their area. By the end of March 2011, all training for 2010-11 will be completed and information on the number of specialists will be available. All prosecutors are trained in and expected to deal with hate crime.

Witnesses: Finance

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General what funding the Crown Prosecution Service plans to provide to witness care units in each year of the spending review period. [32754]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) plans to provide around £2.5 million of funding for witness care units in each year of the spending review 2010 period.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Press Freedom

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on how many occasions his Office has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings his Office was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions his Office has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31916]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Deputy Prime Minister has made one Oral Statement to the House, on constitutional reform on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 23-25. Publicity around this statement was entirely in line with the Ministerial Code.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet Office press office follows the Ministerial Code and ensures all important policy announcements are made in the House not the media.

Lockerbie: Bombings

Damian Collins: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) whether the Cabinet Secretary's report of the review of papers relating to the release of Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed Al Megrahi will include advice from the British Embassy in Libya in relation to political, commercial and operational consequences of a decision not to release Al Megrahi; if he will place in the Library a copy of that advice; and if he will make a statement; [30256]

(2) what progress has been made in the Cabinet Secretary's review of papers relating to the release of Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed Al Megrahi; when he expects that review to conclude; and if he will make a statement. [30255]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 14 December 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answers given by the Prime Minister on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 2W and 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 681W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Debts

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the UK's Official Development Assistance will be spent on debt relief in each year from 2010-11 to 2013-14. [32436]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Over the spending review period we estimate that about 2.5% of UK Official Development Assistance will be in the form of debt relief. Due to uncertainties around individual country progress under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative it is not possible to provide a breakdown by year.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to support the G8 objective to reduce the global average cost of transferring remittances from 10 per cent. to five per cent. over the next five years in respect of developing countries. [32458]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently working with the specialist microfinance organisation CGAP (the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to explore and demonstrate ways of using technology, such as mobile phones, to transfer remittances more cheaply, quickly and safely. We plan to conduct at least eight feasibility studies and three pilot projects by 2014.

DFID is also supporting remittances programmes in several developing countries directly. For example, DFID has supported the Bangladesh Government's Remittance Payments and Partnership (RPP) Project, which is helping to drive down transfer costs. The RPP has contributed to reductions of some 50% that have occurred on transfers between Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh. DFID is also working with the FinMark Trust to reduce the average cost of transferring remittances from South Africa to five other Southern Africa Development Community countries by at least 30% by 2014. In Pakistan, DFID supports the State Bank's Remittance Initiative which is working to facilitate the cheaper and faster transfer of remittances. Going forward, we will continue to explore opportunities to support the G8 cost reduction objective.

Developing Countries: Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which countries his Department provides funding for non-governmental organisations combating human trafficking. [32758]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) currently funds the Salvation Army's Anti-Child Trafficking Project in Malawi. We are also planning a new regional programme aiming to reduce human trafficking in South Asia, which will include work with non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

As well as working with NGOs, DFID works to combat human trafficking with developing country governments and United Nations agencies. We are a leading financier of social protection programmes, which address short-term and long-term vulnerabilities that can put people at risk of trafficking.

Overseas Aid

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to involve diaspora groups in the UK in development projects in their countries of origin. [32457]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports diaspora groups to contribute to development outcomes in their countries and continents of heritage through the Diaspora Volunteering Programme. So far the programme has supported over 400 volunteers to complete placements in 15 countries including Ghana, Ethiopia and Nepal. Diaspora groups are also able to access other DFID supported volunteering or twinning programmes, such as the Global Community Links programme.

DFID also engages diaspora groups in consultations on the design of our programmes via newsletters, events and through the diaspora media.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to achieve the target of spending 0.7% of gross national income on international aid from 2013. [32479]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government are fully committed to meeting the UN target of spending 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) on aid from 2013, and will enshrine this commitment in law. This legislation would make the UK the first G8 (and G20) country to make a lasting commitment to 0.7%. The financial resources required to meet this target have been clearly set out in the spending review.

In terms of developing plans to meet this commitment, I have initiated three thorough reviews of UK bilateral aid, multilateral aid and humanitarian emergency response programmes. These reviews will determine how we can accelerate progress towards the millennium development goals and achieve maximum value for money for the UK taxpayer. This includes identifying priority countries and sectors where UK aid will have the greatest impact on the world's poor, as well as the most effective mechanisms for delivering aid. The full results of these reviews will be announced in spring 2011 and will form the basis for the Department for International Development's (DFID's) operational plans. These plans will set out how DFID intends to achieve the spending target of 0.7% of GNI from 2013. We will closely monitor and manage progress against the target.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's aid budget in 2014-15 will be spent on Official Development Assistance. [32480]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We anticipate that 99% of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) total departmental expenditure limit (T-DEL) will be spent on Official Development Assistance in 2014-15. The remaining expenditure will be used to uphold UK Government commitments which do not qualify as ODA, under the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD's) definition.

Tanzania: BAE Systems

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* correspondence, *(b)* discussions and *(c)* meetings there have been between (i) Ministers and (ii) officials of his Department and (A) their counterparts in other departments and (B) the Serious Fraud Office on the sale by BAE of an air traffic control system to Tanzania and the subsequent prosecution of BAE; what assessment he has made of (1) the settlement reached between the Serious Fraud Office and BAE in the case and (2) arrangements for the disbursement of the sum to be paid by BAE to Tanzania; and if he will make a statement. [32767]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Department for International Development (DFID) Ministers have had no correspondence, discussions or meetings with counterparts in other Government Departments or with the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) related to the sale by BAE to Tanzania of an air traffic control system, and to the subsequent prosecution. DFID has not made an assessment of the settlement of the agreement reached between the SFO and BAE in this case, as the decision to settle was entirely a matter for the SFO.

Following the SFO's decision to reach a settlement with BAE, the director of the SFO wrote to the permanent secretary at DFID on 5 February 2010 requesting the Department's advice on ensuring that any money paid by BAE to Tanzania, as a result of the settlement, would be used for the benefit of the people of Tanzania, with propriety and transparency. DFID officials have had a number of meetings with SFO and the Government of Tanzania to support the development of a proposal by the Government of Tanzania, which would achieve that outcome in a way that is transparent, represents good value for money and delivers specific and measurable results. The final arrangement between BAE and the Government of Tanzania is subject to agreement between BAE and the SFO.

UN Agencies: Finance

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department provided to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in each of the last five years. [32547]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Department for International Development (DFID) funding to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the past five years is as follows:

£

Calendar year	*Core funding*	*Other funding*	*Total*
2006	19,000,000	8,233,583	27,233,583
2007	19,000,000	7,192,280	26,192,280
2008	19,000,000	10,609,587	29,609,587
2009	19,000,000	6,828,600	25,828,600
2010	19,000,000	16,715,000	35,715,000

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department provided to the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs in each of the last five years. [32548]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Department for International Development (DFID) funding to the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for the past five years is as follows:

Calendar year	*Core funding (£)*	*Other funding (£)*	*Total (£)*
2006	7,145,000	4,619,685	11,764,685
2007	7,170,000	2,417,200	9,587,200
2008	7,185,000	3,630,145	10,815,145
2009	7,000,000	6,386,482	13,386,482
2010	7,000,000	3,135,024	10,135,024

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department provided to UNICEF in each of the last five years. [32549]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government's contribution to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in each of the last five years is as follows:

£ million

Financial year	*Core funding*	*Other funding*	*Total funding*
2006	19.00	69.91	88.91
2007	21.00	72.34	93.34
2008	21.00	86.42	107.42

£ million

Financial year	Core funding	Other funding	Total funding
2009	21.00	114.39	135.39
2010	21.00	137.80	158.80

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department provided to the UN Development Programme in each of the last five years. [32550]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government's contribution to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in each of the past five years is as follows:

£ million

Financial year	Core funding	Other funding	Total
2006	50.00	171.35	221.35
2007	55.00	153.33	208.33
2008	55.00	197.73	252.73
2009	57.82	285.20	343.02
2010	55.00	186.16	241.16

UN Women

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bethnal Green and Bow (Rushamara Ali) of 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 828W, on UN Women's Agency: finance, by what means his Department will evaluate how UN Women has delivered and demonstrated value for money in the past, as part of the multilateral aid review. [32478]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) has considered how agencies have delivered value for money using a range of criteria. These include assessing how well the organisation has delivered on the basis of their track record in delivering results, their strategic and financial management, and their fit with the Government's priorities for poverty reduction.

UNIFEM is the largest of the organisations that has been merged to create UN Women. The MAR has assessed UNIFEM using the same criteria that has been applied to other organisations. The Government will take these findings into account when considering financial commitments to UN Women.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his UN counterparts on the participation of civil society in the UN Women's Agency. [32526]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I met the Head of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet, during the Millennium Development Goal Summit in September last year. The Government continue to encourage UN Women to work closely with civil society. We plan to organise a meeting in London in the next few months that will bring together UK Government officials, civil society organisations and senior UN Women staff to discuss the agency's objectives and priorities.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband: Norfolk

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his most recent assessment is of the level of access to broadband in Norfolk; and what steps his Department is taking to increase that level. [31971]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK is assessing current broadband provision at community level across the UK in its work to deliver the coalition Government's objective to facilitate universal broadband access of at least 2Mbps.

The Government have committed £530 million up to 2015 to facilitate commercial investment in superfast broadband commencing with the superfast broadband pilots announced earlier this year. In addition, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport announced a further £50 million tranche of funding for the next wave of projects to be announced in May 2011.

Broadband Delivery UK will work with local authorities who should prepare local broadband plans to form the basis of any bid for project funding.

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of households in each parliamentary constituency in Norfolk with access to broadband at speeds of 2Mb or above. [31972]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK has modelled the current broadband provision at community level across the UK in its work to deliver the Government's objective to facilitate universal broadband access of at least 2Mbps, but has not made the data public because it is the subject of a non-disclosure agreement with the supplier of the raw data.

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many applications under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme were refused in 2009-10. [32779]

John Penrose: The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme makes grants equivalent to the amount of VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings mainly used for worship. In 2009-10, the records show that 1,209 claims were initially rejected with queries, however, it is understood that in most cases claims are subsequently resolved and resubmitted for payment.

Creative Industries

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of creative industries to economic growth. [32385]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not produce statistics on the contribution of the creative industries specifically to economic growth. However, we estimate that the contribution of the creative industries to the economy as a whole was 5.6% of gross value added (GVA) in 2008.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many political advisers have been appointed in his Department since May 2010; and at what cost to the public purse. [32271]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Since May 2010, my Department has appointed two special advisers. Their total costs to the public purse as at 30 November 2010 are £69,821.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many policy advisers have been appointed in his Department since May 2010; and what the cost to the public purse was of such appointments. [32187]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Since May 2010, my Department has appointed two special advisors, who provide input on policy, with a cost to the public purse of £69,821 as at 30 November 2010. The Department has not appointed any further new policy advisors.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on ministerial cars since May 2010. [32273]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The total spend by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on ministerial cars from May-November 2010 was £57,348.41. Of this, £2,665.30 relates to charges incurred by current Ministers, and the balance was paid as a result of the early termination of the Government Car Service contracts during the year.

Departmental Procurement

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have taken to comply with the Guidance of the Office of Government Commerce on promoting skills through public procurement issued in 2009. [31317]

John Penrose: The promotion of skills through public procurement has mainly been undertaken through the letting of our key contracts; such as our facilities management, IT and mailroom contracts. Through these we have sought to engage with our suppliers to encourage better skills and the use of apprenticeships.

On all major projects submitted by our Arm's Length Bodies, these elements are investigated by the Departmental Investment Committee, which our procurement team forms part of in an advisory role.

I have asked the chief executives of our Arm's Length Bodies to write to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne North directly regarding the steps they have taken to comply with the Guidance of the Office of Government Commerce on promotion of skills through public procurement. Copies of the responses will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of redundancies, including the payment of pensions, as a result of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review; [32274]

(2) what estimate he has made of the savings which will accrue to his Department from redundancies during the comprehensive spending review period. [32275]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 42-43W, to the hon. Member for Wallasey (Ms Eagle).

Departmental Training

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many residential staff training events his Department has funded since May 2010; and what the cost was of each such event. [32188]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: From May to December 2010 the Department purchased a total of 74 training events and activities, some of which will have been residential, at a cost of £115,729. The Department does not keep a separate record of those training events which are residential.

Departmental Travel

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel since May 2010. [32276]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The total amount spent by my Department on ministerial travel from May 2010 to the end of November 2010 was £12,840.89.

Internet: Harassment

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of harassment and bullying on social networking sites. [28911]

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply.

Tackling bullying, including bullying using new technology, is a top priority for this Government. That is why in our Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", we announced measures to ensure head teachers take a strong stand against bullies and bullying. In addition, the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS), which is chaired by Department for Education and Home Office Ministers and comprises over 170 organisations, is continuing its work with industry, including social networking sites, on self-regulation and good practice sharing, to help to keep young people safe online.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Contracts

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts the Olympic Delivery Authority has been awarded to firms located in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* each region of England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* elsewhere up to and including 30 November 2010. [31147]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for developing and building the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 games. As of November 2010, over 1,400 businesses, including those directly involved in the construction programme, have supplied the ODA from across all of the devolved Nations and English regions.

The number of the ODA's direct suppliers, by Nation and English region (according to their registered address) can be found in the following table.

Regional development agency	*Number of suppliers*
East Midlands	44
East of England	135
London	726
North East	21
North West	53
South East	218
South West	60
West Midlands	58
Yorkshire and Humber	40
Northern Ireland	5
Scotland	25
Wales	11
Overseas	37
Total	1,433

These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODA to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). The figures do not include contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. The ODA estimates that tens of thousands more contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains. More information on businesses that have won games-related contracts can be found at the business section of the London 2012 website at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/business

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate the Olympic Delivery Authority has made of the number of contracts remaining to be let in respect of the London 2012 Olympics; and what estimate has been made of the monetary value of those contracts. [31148]

Hugh Robertson: As of the end of November, the Olympic Delivery Authority estimate there are 122 contracts remaining, with an estimated monetary value of £202 million. This may be in the form of new contracts or amendments to existing contracts. These direct procurements will in turn generate hundreds more business opportunities in the supply chains.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the monetary value was of London 2012 Olympics construction contracts awarded to companies registered in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* each region of England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* elsewhere up to and including 1 December 2010. [31146]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for developing and building the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 games. As of 1 December 2010, over 1,400 businesses, including those directly involved in the construction programme, have supplied the ODA from across the devolved nations and the English regions.

The spend to date by the ODA, by nation and English region (based on their registered address on the supplier invoice), can be found in the tables.

Nation	*Total contract value (£)*
Scotland	23,367,258
Wales	668,663
Northern Ireland	17,094,646
England	5,565,304,398
Outside the UK	12,224,949

English Region	*Total Contract Value (£)*
London	3,148,804,475
South East	816,822,052
East of England	719,818,580
West Midlands	425,371,681
East Midlands	271,823,439
North West	97,055,679
Yorkshire and The Humber	66,407,039
North East	9,644,108
South West	9,557,345
Total	5,565,304,398

These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODA to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). The figures do not include the values of contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. For example, the steel for the aquatics centre was provided by Rowecord in Newport, a contract worth millions of pounds. Cardiff-based Euroclad have won contracts on both the Olympic stadium and the media centre, whilst Vannplastic from Saltney produced decking boards for the new facilities at Weymouth and Portland, where the sailing events will take place in 2012. The ODA estimates that the total value of supply chain contracts to the regions runs into hundreds of millions of pounds, but these are not public procurements and so the full value of contracts won across the UK is not captured by the figures provided. The ODA estimates that overall up to 50,000 contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains.

UK Film Council: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what projects in Wales the UK Film Council has supported in each of the last five years. [31149]

Mr Vaizey: The table lists both lottery and grant in aid (GIA) awards made to Wales in the last five years. It should be noted that while the table identifies UK Film Council (UKFC) supported projects in Wales, there are numerous cases where Welsh projects benefited from UKFC funds which were not allocated directly to Wales.

Org	*Type*	*Organisation name*	*Disposition date*	*Grant amount (£)*	*Project title*
UKFC	Lottery	Aberystwyth University	5 March 2008	28,395.00	Aberystwyth Arts Centre Cinema
UKFC	GIA	The Festivals Company Limited	16 August 2007	10,000.00	Award Sponsorship: The Iris Prize
UKFC	Lottery	Chapter (Cardiff) Ltd	28 March 2007	47,411.76	Chapter Cinema
UKFC	Lottery	Chapter (Cardiff) Ltd	8 August 2007	10,443.00	Chapter Cinema
UKFC	Lottery	Chapter (Cardiff) Ltd	5 March 2008	35,000.00	Chapter Cinema
UKFC	Lottery	Cine-UK Ltd	4 May 2005	94,780.14	Cineworld Cardiff (formerly UGC)
UKFC	Lottery	Cine-UK Ltd	4 May 2005	50,514.69	Cineworld Llandudno
UKFC	Lottery	Cine-UK Ltd	4 May 2005	47,390.07	Cineworld Newport (formerly UGC)
UKFC	Lottery	Clwyd Theatr Cymru Development Trust	21 June 2006	22,030.59	Clwyd Theatr Cymru Film Theatre
UKFC	Lottery	Red and Black Films Ltd	31 March 2010	8,000.00	Cyrano
UKFC	GIA	The Festivals Company Limited	17 November 2010	15,000.00	Iris Prize Festival 2011
UKFC	Lottery	Monmouthshire county council	8 September 2004	5,000.00	Monmouthshire county council
UKFC	Lottery	Montgomery Movie Club	8 September 2004	1,248.00	Montgomery Movie Club
UKFC	Lottery	Denbighshire county council	5 March 2008	4,300.00	Scala Cinema and Arts Centre
UKFC	GIA	The Festivals Company Limited	9 June 2010	22,173.00	The Iris Prize Short Film Festival
UKFC	Lottery	The Valleys Film Society	8 September 2004	4,811.00	The Valleys Film Society
UKFC	Lottery	Theatr Mwldan	4 May 2005	47,411.76	Theatr Mwldan
UKFC	Lottery	Theatr Mwldan	11 May 2005	11,187.00	Theatr Mwldan
UKFC	Lottery	Theatr Mwldan	12 October 2005	4,000.00	Theatr Mwldan
UKFC	Lottery	Undercurrents	8 September 2004	3,998.00	Undercurrents
Skillset	Lottery	Cyfle	30 January 2007	77,078.00	New entrants
Skillset	Lottery	International Film School Wales	16 December 2004	511,000.00	Skillset Screen Academy, Wales
Skillset	Lottery	International Film School Wales	13 April 2007	219,500.00	Bursary Funding for Skillset Screen Academy Wales 2007-09
Skillset	Lottery	Cyfle	3 July 2007	57,986.00	Micro-Movies, CPD Training Scheme
Skillset	Lottery	International Film School Wales	1 August 2007	231,900.00	Skillset Screen Academy Course Enhancement and Outreach
Skillset	Lottery	Cyfle	12 September 2007	26,952.00	Child Protection for the Film Industry
Skillset	Lottery	Cyfle	18 April 2008	135,911.00	Cyfle New Entrants Film Training Provision
Skillset	Lottery	International Film School Wales	6 April 2009	93,800.00	Skillset Screen Academy Course Enhancement and Outreach
Skillset	Lottery	Cyfle	4 March 2009	55,000.00	Archive Media Management—Pilot
Skillset	Lottery	International Film School Wales	6 April 2009	40,000.00	Academy funding
Skillset	Lottery	International Film School Wales	8 October 2010	15,000.00	Innovative Exhibition Techniques for Managers
First Light	Lottery	Flycatcher Films Ltd	2005	4,000	—
First Light	Lottery	Valley and Vale Community Arts	2005	16,889	—
First Light	Lottery	Tornado Films	2006	20,000	—
First Light	Lottery	Flycatcher Films Ltd	2007	4,000	—
First Light	Lottery	Valley and Vale Community Arts	2007	19,986	—
First Light	Lottery	Monmouth Film School	2007	20,000	—
First Light	Lottery	Menter Iaith	2007	20,900	—
First Light	Lottery	Fairbridge Cymru	2007	24,566	—
First Light	Lottery	Rural Media Company	2007	5,000	—
First Light	Lottery	Small World Theatre	2008	1,570	—
First Light	Lottery	Film 15 Productions Ltd	2008	16,500	—

Org	*Type*	*Organisation name*	*Disposition date*	*Grant amount (£)*	*Project title*
First Light	Lottery	Newport City Council Arts Development	2008	21,987	—
First Light	Lottery	Cinetig	2008	25,000	—
First Light	Lottery	Arts Connection	2008	5,000	—
First Light	Lottery	Thomas Adams Media Arts Programme	2008	28,636	—
First Light	Lottery	Flycatcher Films	2008	16,200	—
First Light	Lottery	Who Cares? We Care!	2008	2,138	—
First Light	Lottery	Cardiff People First	2008	3,000	—
First Light	Lottery	Valley and Vale Community Arts	2009	4,915	—
First Light	Lottery	FILM 15 Productions Ltd	2009	26,208	—
First Light	Lottery	Cinetig	2010	28,000	—
First Light	Lottery	Zoom Cymru Ltd	2010	4,920	—
First Light	Lottery	Cardiff People First	2010	5,000	—
UKFC	GIA	Iris Prize 2007	2007	10,000	—
UKFC	GIA	Iris Prize 2008	2008	10,000	—
UKFC	GIA	Iris Prize 2009	2009	20,000	—
UKFC	GIA	Iris Prize 2010	2010	22,173	—
UKFC	GIA	Iris Prize 2011	2011	15,000	—

In addition to the awards listed in the table, the UK Film Council has made grant in aid awards to Film Agency for Wales (formerly SGRIN), who make subsequent awards to a range of exhibition, education and development projects:

	£
2005-06	160,000
2006-07	160,000
2007-08	160,000
2008-09	160,000
2009-10	160,000
2010-11	128,000

Film Agency for Wales also received lottery funding from Film: 21st Century Literacy Strategy of £30,000 in 2009-10 and £20,000 in 2010-11.

It should be noted that Arts Council Wales has responsibility for supporting film in Wales through the Lottery.

EDUCATION

Academies

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether *(a)* the local education authority and *(b)* any body other than the Secretary of State will have a formal role in academy school dispute resolution procedures. [9488]

Mr Gibb: Academies are required by the independent school standards regulations to have a complaints procedure which must be available on request to parents. The procedure must provide for complaints to be managed within clear timescales. If initial informal consideration does not resolve the complaint, then the procedure must also include steps to escalate a complaint through both a formal written stage and, if necessary, a hearing before a panel that includes at least one member who is independent of the academy.

If the complaint cannot be resolved at school level the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) will be the next route of redress. The YPLA will review the evidence provided by the complainant and the academy to determine if the academy has followed its own complaints procedure or is in breach of a contractual or statutory obligation. If the academy has not followed its procedures or obligations it will be asked to do so to rectify any failings.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in *(a)* Coventry, *(b)* West Midlands and *(c)* England had registered an interest in becoming an academy school on the latest date for which figures are available. [27459]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 December 2010]:* The list of primary and secondary schools within England that have registered an interest in academy status is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0069811/schools-registering-interest-or-submitting-an-application

This will be updated on a regular cycle. As of 14 July 2010, there were *(a)* 10 schools in Coventry, *(b)* 179 schools in West Midlands, including Coventry, and *(c)* a total of 1,907 schools in England, including the west midlands.

Alternative Education

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the number of pupils who drop out of mainstream education in the latest period in which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [28515]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 December 2010]:* Information on pupils dropping out of schools is not collected, nor can it be accurately derived from the data currently collected on pupils.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of providing alternative education to pupils who have dropped out of mainstream schooling; and if he will make a statement. [28516]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 December 2010]:* For the financial year 2008-09 the net current expenditure by local authorities in England on "Education out of school" was £530 million. This total was taken from the local authority outturn statements and may be found in the "Outturn Summary—2008-09" report (line 75 column (m)). The figure provided, and other details on local authority budgets and spending, are available on the Department's section 251 website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/financeandfunding/informationforlocalauthorities/section251/dataarchive/s52da/

Education out of school includes provision for pupils who because of exclusion, illness or other reasons receive education outside school settings, in particular: expenditure on the provision of education at pupil referral units as defined in 'section 19 of the Education Act 1996'; pre-schoolers not in nursery school or maintained schools not including those at private or voluntary institutions; the implementation of behaviour support plans; home-tuition; individual teaching of sick children in hospital; education in social service establishments.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanisms will be in place to assist those schools whose project funding was reduced or cancelled in the Building Schools for the Future capital spending review in respect of capital funding for projects in the Spending Review period. [27384]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July 2010 the Secretary of State announced a review of the Department for Education's capital spending. The Capital Review, led by Sebastian James, will inform future capital investment in schools to ensure that the £15.8 billion of capital funding announced in the recent spending review is used to benefit the maximum number of children and young people.

The review will make recommendations on appropriate mechanisms for delivering capital investment and consider the roles of the bodies involved. The review team is expected to complete its work by the end of the calendar year and the Secretary of State will announce decisions about capital funding, in the light of the review, as soon as possible in the new year.

Bullying

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department has taken to encourage schools to work together with local community groups, social services and health authorities to prevent bullying in *(a)* schools and *(b)* the wider community. [24798]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* Schools have the central role in tackling bullying and should decide when they need to access support from other agencies. Local authority leadership will also help influence the anti-bullying policies of other organisations in the community through the commissioning of services such as transport, care provision and voluntary sector support.

On Tuesday 9 November I met with eight organisations that have an interest in tackling bullying to discuss the coalition Government's approach to tackling bullying. They were:

Anti-Bullying Alliance;
Diana Award;
Schools Out;
Council for Disabled Children;
Mencap;
Educational Action Challenging Homophobia (EACH);
Stonewall; and
Beatbullying.

I have asked each of them to submit their ideas on how we can work to support schools in tackling bullying.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many families were referred to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in 2009-10. [31752]

Tim Loughton: CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) received a total of 56,824 referrals to their services in 2009-10. This information is set out in CAFCASS's annual report, a copy of which is available in the House Libraries.

Children: Domestic Violence

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with representatives of child victims of domestic violence on the funding of services for those children. [30307]

Tim Loughton: Neither I nor my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education have had specific discussions with representatives of child victims of domestic violence about funding for services for those children. I do, however, continue to have a dialogue with relevant groups through a violence against women advisory group and this has been a topic of discussion in various child safeguarding policy groups.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for future funding of organisations supporting child victims of domestic violence. [30308]

Tim Loughton: The voluntary and community sector receives government funding through a variety of routes including direct funding, funding through arm's length bodies, through local authorities and from services commissioned by schools. Organisations supporting the child victims of domestic violence may access funding through one or more of these routes.

In terms of direct national funding, the Department published a prospectus on 22 November 2010 seeking expressions of interest for a range of grant funded activities which have national significance. No decisions have been made yet about future direct DfE funding to individual organisations, including those supporting child victims of domestic violence, as it is expected that applicants will be notified of the outcomes of the first expression of interest stage by 22 December, and final decisions on grant awards will be made by 25 February 2011.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many invoices his Department processed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [30749]

Tim Loughton: During the period from December 2009 to November 2010, the Department for Work and Pensions as a provider of shared services has processed 67,517 invoices (of which 1,630 related to Government Procurement Card (GPC) transactions) on behalf of the Department for Education and its predecessors. A breakdown of these figures is shown in the following table:

	Number
Invoices	65,887
GPC	1,630
Total invoices	67,517

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people aged between 16 and 18 received assistance from the learner support fund in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* the 2010-11 academic year to date; and how many such young people he expects to receive assistance from that fund in 2011-12. [28028]

Mr Gibb: The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) has operational responsibility for discretionary learner support funding. YPLA figures are currently only available for the 2008/09 academic year. For 2008/09, a total of 293,906 awards were made to learners aged 16-19 covering 216,948 students.

From 2011/12, decisions regarding the enhanced discretionary fund will be made locally, enabling schools, colleges and training providers to target support at those young people in greatest need. It is not, therefore, possible to estimate the proportion of young people entering an institution of further education in the 2011/12 academic year who will receive assistance under the new arrangements.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding he plans to allocate to the discretionary learner support fund in 2011-12. [28448]

Mr Gibb: The level of the enhanced discretionary learner support fund for each of the years covered by the spending review has yet to be confirmed.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance he plans to provide to schools, colleges and training organisations on levels of financial support to students through the discretionary learner support fund following the ending of the education maintenance allowance. [28449]

Mr Gibb: We will work with representatives of schools, colleges and training providers to finalise the arrangements for the enhanced discretionary learner support fund, including how the funding will flow to institutions and what guidance is required to administer the fund effectively.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people he expects to receive grants from the discretionary learner support fund in its first full year of operation. [28481]

Mr Gibb: Decisions regarding the new discretionary fund will be made locally, enabling schools, colleges and training providers to target support at those young people in greatest need. It is not, therefore, possible to estimate the proportion of young people entering an institution of further education in the 2011-12 academic year who will receive support under the new arrangements.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what allocation each school and college in Warrington North constituency will receive from the discretionary support fund in the financial year 2011-12. [28087]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 2 December 2010]:* The enhanced discretionary learner support fund replacing EMA will enable schools, colleges and training providers more effectively to target those young people who actually need the support to enable them to participate in learning.

We plan to allocate the enhanced funding in line with the timetable for overall funding allocations for schools and colleges, which will be made by the end of March.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what financial assistance will be available to young people not already in receipt of the education maintenance allowance who start a course in further education after 1 January 2011. [26431]

Mr Gibb: Where young people not already in receipt of, or assessed as eligible for, the education maintenance allowance (EMA) who start a course in further education after 1 January 2011 are facing financial barriers to participation, schools and colleges will be able to agree whether they should benefit under the existing arrangements for discretionary learner support funding.

From September 2011 the enhanced learner support fund replacing EMA will be administered by schools and colleges, enabling them to support those young people who face a real financial barrier to participation.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Warrington North (Helen Jones) of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 593W, on education maintenance allowance: public expenditure, when he expects funding for the education maintenance allowance in academic year 2011-12 to be available to students; which agency will be responsible for the administration of that funding; and if he will make a statement. [27755]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 December 2010]:* The EMA scheme will close entirely at the end of the 2010/11 academic year. Young people who are currently receiving the EMA, irrespective of how much of their course they have completed, will continue to receive it to the end of this academic year only. No funding will be allocated to EMA in the 2011/12 academic year.

Young people who are continuing their education next September and need financial help may be eligible for support from the enhanced discretionary learner support fund, which replaces EMA, and will be administered by their school, college or training provider. The new funds will be available from the start of the 2011/12 academic year.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Warrington North (Helen Jones) on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 593W, on education maintenance allowance: public expenditure, how many students *(a)* in schools, *(b)* in further education colleges and *(c)* with training providers will have access to the funding allocated to the education maintenance allowance in the academic year 2011-12. [27858]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 December 2010]:* The EMA scheme will close entirely at the end of the 2010/11 academic year. Young people who are currently receiving the EMA, irrespective of how much of their course they have completed, will continue to receive it to the end of this academic year only. No funding will be allocated to EMA in the 2011/12 academic year.

Young people who are continuing their education next September and need financial help may be eligible for support from the enhanced discretionary learner support fund, which replaces EMA, and will be administered by their school, college or training provider.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much of the funding currently provided for the education maintenance allowance will be allocated to the *(a)* enhanced learner support fund and *(b)* national scholarship fund; and if he will make a statement. [28026]

Mr Gibb: The level of the enhanced discretionary learner support fund for each of the years covered by the spending review has yet to be confirmed.

None of the funding currently provided for education maintenance allowance will be allocated to the National scholarship fund, which is a matter for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to permit those students currently receiving an education maintenance allowance of £30 per week in the first year of their post-16 study to continue to receive that allowance in their second year. [28027]

Mr Gibb: The EMA scheme will close entirely at the end of the 2010/11 academic year. Young people who are currently receiving the EMA, irrespective of how much of their course they have completed, will continue to receive it to the end of this academic year only.

Young people who are continuing their education next September and need financial help may be eligible for support from the enhanced discretionary learner support fund, which replaces EMA, and will be administered by their school, college or training provider.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of students currently receiving an education maintenance allowance in *(a)* Sunderland, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England who will not qualify for the proposed pupil premium. [28029]

Mr Gibb: The pupil premium will support the attainment of disadvantaged pupils up to the age of 16 and incentivise good schools to take on pupils from more disadvantaged backgrounds. The ending of education maintenance allowance (EMA) will have no impact on which pupils attract the pupil premium, as EMA is solely for young people post-16. EMA will be replaced with targeted support for those who face genuine financial barriers to participation post-16.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has commissioned on whether there is a deadweight cost associated with the education maintenance allowance. [28656]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 December 2010]:* Evaluation evidence from the education maintenance allowance pilots as well as more recent research commissioned by the previous Administration and undertaken by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), working in partnership with Triangle and QA Research, suggests that around 90% of recipients would have stayed on after age 16 even if they had not received EMA.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what evidence he has evaluated in determining whether there is a deadweight cost associated with education maintenance allowance. [28657]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 December 2010]:* We have considered the evaluation evidence from the education maintenance allowance pilots as well as more recent research commissioned by the previous Administration and undertaken by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), working in partnership with Triangle and QA Research. This evidence suggests that around 90% of recipients would have stayed on after age 16 even if they had not received EMA.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 640, on education maintenance allowance, what evidential basis he evaluated in determining that 90 per cent. of education maintenance allowance costs were deadweight. [28658]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 December 2010]:* Evidence from the education maintenance allowance pilots as well as more recent research commissioned by the previous Administration and undertaken by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), working in partnership with Triangle and QA Research, suggests that around 90% of recipients would have stayed on after age 16 even if they had not received EMA.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what method he used to assess the effects of ending the education maintenance allowance system on the number of young people remaining in post-16 education in *(a)* England and *(b)* the Brighton and Hove local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [28759]

Mr Gibb: In reaching the decision to end the education maintenance allowance (EMA) we have looked closely at evaluation evidence and other research, which indicates that the scheme does not effectively target those young people who need financial support to enable them to continue in the education. The evidence suggests that around 90% of the young people who receive EMA would still have continued in education if the scheme was not available.

From September 2011, EMA will be replaced by an enhanced learner support fund that will be administered by schools and colleges themselves, targeting those young people who face a real financial barrier to participation.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria he uses to determine which questions on the education maintenance allowance and its successor fund are answered by *(a)* Ministers in his Department and *(b)* the Chief Executive of the Young People's Learning Agency. [29396]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education funds and has policy responsibility for the education maintenance allowance (EMA) and other learner student schemes, including the enhanced discretionary learner support fund, and will respond to questions on matters of policy.

The Young People's Learning Agency has operational responsibility for these schemes. We have agreed with the YPLA that they will respond to questions seeking operational details, for example, numbers of young people in receipt of EMA at a given time.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what equality impact assessment he undertook before making the decision to abolish the education maintenance allowance; and what the outcome was of any such assessment. [30223]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 December 2010]:* Discussions on distributional impacts, including impacts on equality, informed the process for Spending Review discussions and decisions, and this Department has worked closely with HM Treasury to assess the impact on different sections of society.

A full equality impact assessment for the introduction of the discretionary learner support fund will be published in due course as arrangements for the operation of the funding are being developed in consultation with schools, colleges and stakeholders.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the evidential basis was for his conclusion that 90 per cent. of recipients of education maintenance allowance would have stayed on in education after the age of 16 years without receiving such allowances. [30224]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 December 2010]:* We have considered the evaluation evidence from the education maintenance allowance pilots as well as more recent research commissioned by the previous Administration and undertaken by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), working in partnership with Triangle and QA Research. This evidence suggests that around 90% of recipients would have stayed on after age 16 even if they had not received EMA.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what use he made of the report of the National Foundation for Educational Research in reaching his decision to abolish the education maintenance allowance; and if he will make a statement. [30247]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 December 2010]:* Evidence from the recent research commissioned by the previous Administration and undertaken by the National Foundation for Educational Research, working in partnership with Triangle and QA Research, in addition to evidence from the education maintenance allowance pilots, suggests that around 90% of recipients would have stayed on after age 16 even if they had not received EMA. This evidence informed the basis upon which the Government took the decision to end EMA.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Public Expenditure

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Warrington North of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 593W, on education maintenance allowance: public expenditure, whether young people who receive education maintenance allowance and will have completed 50% of their course by the start of academic year 2011-12 will continue to receive education maintenance allowance for the remainder of their course. [26589]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* The EMA scheme will close entirely at the end of the 2010/11 academic year, with no young people receiving EMA in the 2011/12 academic year.

Young people who are continuing their education next September and need financial help with costs may be eligible for support from the enhanced discretionary learner support fund, which replaces EMA, and will be administered by their school, college or training provider.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Stoke-on-Trent

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people resident in each local authority ward in Stoke-on-Trent Central constituency are in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [26989]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Stoke on Trent Central with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 1 December 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions PQ26989, PQ26990 and PQ26991 that asked:

"How many young people resident in each local authority ward in Stoke-on-Trent Central constituency are in receipt of education maintenance allowance."

"How many young people resident in Stoke-on-Trent Central constituency have received education maintenance allowance since its creation."

"How many young people resident in Stoke-on-Trent Central constituency receive education maintenance allowance."

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level, but not at constituency or ward level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The table below shows the number of young people in receipt of EMA for Stoke-on-Trent Local Authority area.

Academic year	*Take-up*
2006/07	3,574
2007/08	3,617
2008/09	3,369
2009/10	4,260
2010/11	[1]3,356

[1] At 31 October 2010.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Education: Assessments

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to bring forward proposals to reduce the expenditure of schools on examinations. [25770]

Mr Gibb: The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) has a statutory objective to secure efficiency and value for money in the provision of regulated qualifications. Ofqual is currently consulting on their approach to economic regulation, and Ministers support this important work. We have also asked Ofqual to look at the effects of recent changes to A levels and GCSEs, making it clear that we would support approaches that lead to fewer, more rigorous, exams which allow more freedom to teach and reduce the time and money spent on the examination process.

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he made of the average cost *(a)* per maintained secondary school, *(b)* per pupil in the maintained secondary sector and *(c)* to the maintained secondary sector of public examinations in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2009-10. [27594]

Mr Gibb: The Department did not collect figures on public examinations until 2002-03. The available information on how much was spent for each maintained secondary school, for each pupil on public examinations is contained in the following table. The Department is currently undertaking validation checks on the section 251 outturn data for the 2009-10 financial year. The information will not be publicly available until early January when it will be published as Official Statistics.

Spend by maintained secondary schools on examination fees

			£
	Spent by maintained secondary schools	*Per school*	*Per pupil*
2002-03	154,024,000	44,440	47
2008-09	281,204,000	85,240	89

Notes:

1. The financial information used in the answer to this PQ is taken from the Department's former section 52 data collection. Section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children, and Learning Act 2009 now replaces section 52 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 in England.

2. Examination fees includes the costs of test and examination entry fees, and any accreditation costs related to pupils (including GCSEs, A/AS levels, GNVQs); administrative costs, e.g. external marking.

3. Pupil numbers used in the calculations include all FTE pupils attending maintained secondary or middle-deemed secondary schools in England in the financial years given.

4. The pupil numbers used are from the 2002, 2003, 2008 and 2009 January school census (with a ?-?weighting applied to give financial year figures).

5. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 29 November 2010.

Educational Underachievement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the rate of educational underachievement. [26623]

Mr Gibb: The Schools White Paper 2010 "The Importance of Teaching" defines a new minimum or "floor" standard which we expect all schools to meet. For secondary schools, a school will be below the floor if fewer than 35% of pupils achieve the "basics" standard of 5 A*-C grade GCSEs including English and mathematics, and fewer pupils make good progress between key stage two and key stage four than the national average. Based on 2009 GCSE results, 437 secondary schools were below this floor standard.

For primary schools, a school will be below the floor if fewer than 60% of pupils achieve the "basics" standard of level four in both English and mathematics and fewer pupils than average make the expected levels of progress between key stage one and key stage two. Based on 2009 key stage 2 results, 1,631 primary school were below this floor standard.

Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding from the ethnic minority achievement grant was allocated to each *(a)* Black Caribbean, *(b)* Black African, *(c)* Black Other, *(d)* Bangladeshi, *(e)* Pakistani, *(f)* Gypsy, *(g)* Roma and Traveller and *(h)* mixed heritage group in the latest period for which figures are available. [29305]

Mr Gibb: Currently each local authority receives an ethnic minority achievement grant based on an agreed formula. In 2010-11, ethnic minority achievement grant funding amounted to £201 million overall. The funding formula takes account of the number of minority ethnic pupils from underperforming groups and those with English as an additional language. The Department does not collect information on how much of a local authority's individual allocation supports each group of pupils mentioned in the question.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much ethnic minority achievement grant funding each local education authority in London received in the last year for which figures are available. [29306]

Mr Gibb: The amount of ethnic minority achievement grant allocated to each of the London authorities in 2010-11 is listed in the following table.

LA number	*LA name*	*Ethnic minority achievement grant (EMAG) (£)*
201	Corporation of London	104,811
202	Camden	3,209,273
203	Greenwich	3,308,292
204	Hackney	4,535,653
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	2,152,422
206	Islington	3,326,339

LA number	*LA name*	*Ethnic minority achievement grant (EMAG) (£)*
207	Kensington and Chelsea	1,427,733
208	Lambeth	5,032,056
209	Lewisham	3,848,175
210	Southwark	4,546,229
211	Tower Hamlets	9,231,472
212	Wandsworth	3,042,619
213	Westminster	2,520,946
301	Barking	2,088,207
302	Barnet	3,015,756
303	Bexley	673,665
304	Brent	5,170,069
305	Bromley	729,236
306	Croydon	3,186,163
307	Ealing	4,620,846
308	Enfield	4,215,183
309	Haringey	4,992,775
310	Harrow	2,340,629
311	Havering	382,650
312	Hillingdon	1,895,859
313	Hounslow	3,086,475
314	Kingston upon Thames	467,386
315	Merton	1,001,883
316	Newham	8,450,264
317	Redbridge	3,665,102
318	Richmond upon Thames	408,639
319	Sutton	557,577
320	Waltham Forest	3,734,278

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the *(a)* ethnic minority achievement grant and *(b)* list of eligible groups in receipt of that grant; and if he will make a statement. [29307]

Mr Gibb: For 2011-12, funding to raise the attainment of underperforming minority ethnic pupils and support those with English as an additional language, will be included in the main schools budget, as part of the Government's aim to reduce the number of funding streams going to schools. It will be for local authorities, in consultation with their School Forum, to decide how to take account of the previous levels of ethnic minority achievement grant when making local decisions on the level of 2011-12 allocations to schools.

Ethnic minority achievement grant allocations take account of the number of: Black Caribbean; White and Black Caribbean; Black African and White and Black African; Black Other; Pakistani; Gypsy/Roma and Traveller; White Other pupils; and those with English as an additional language attending an individual authority's schools.

Financial Services: Education

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the merits of providing financial capability education for pupils *(a)* at Key Stage (i) three and (ii) four and *(b)* as part of the curriculum for personal, social, health and economic education. [28919]

Mr Gibb: It is important that young people have a planned and coherent programme of personal finance education so that they leave school with the skills and confidence to manage their money effectively.

The current economic wellbeing and financial capability strand of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) provides a framework upon which teachers can draw.

The coalition Government recently announced in the Schools White Paper 2010, "The Importance of Teaching", that all children and young people should benefit from high quality PSHE education. The Department will be holding an internal review of the subject and details will be announced in the new year.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make an estimate of the potential savings to the public purse arising from the provision of financial capability education to children. [28925]

Mr Gibb: The economic wellbeing and financial capability strand of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) was introduced in secondary schools in September 2008. Pupils should learn to:

manage their money;

understand financial risk and reward;

explain financial terms and products;

identify how finance will play an important part in their lives and in achieving their aspirations.

There are a range of complex factors that might affect savings to the public purse, and it would be difficult to isolate the impact of the introduction of the financial capability strand of PSHE on savings to public expenditure.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he last met officials in his Department to discuss the provision of financial education in schools; and if he will make it his policy to meet the relevant officials monthly to ensure that progress is made in teaching financial capability. [29636]

Mr Gibb: Ministers meet with officials to discuss personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, which includes financial capability, as and when necessary.

However, as set out in our recent White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", it is the responsibility of teachers, rather than central Government, to decide how best to teach financial capability in schools.

Free School Meals: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* received free school meals in (i) West Ham constituency, (ii) the London borough of Newham and (iii) London in the latest period for which figures are available. [28917]

Mr Gibb: Information on the number of pupils known to be eligible and claiming free school meals is shown in the table. This includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged 5 to 15.

Information is not available on those pupils who meet the eligibility criteria but do not make a claim.

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1, 2] and special[3] schools: school meal arrangements[4, 5], as at January 2010, in West Ham parliamentary constituency, Newham local authority and London

	West Ham parliamentary constituency			Newham local authority[6]			London		
	Number on roll[4, 5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4, 5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll[4, 5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4, 5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll[4, 5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meal[4, 5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
Maintained Nursery and Maintained Primary[1]	14,450	4,770	33.0	28,140	8,770	31.2	594,490	156,260	26.3
State-Funded Secondary[1, 2]	10,360	4,330	41.8	17,630	7,690	43.6	379,710	95,920	25.3
Special Schools[3]	40	[7]—	[7]—	40	[7]—	[7]—	10,440	4,460	42.7

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[5] Includes pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between 5 and 15.

[6] This local authority is participating in a pilot offering FSMs to all primary school children. The figures in this table may not reliably reflect the pupils who would be eligible for and claiming free school meals under the national criteria.

[7] Fewer than 5 or a percentage based on a number fewer than 5.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Free School Meals: Richmond upon Thames

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the level of take-up of free school meals in Richmond Park constituency. [13899]

Sarah Teather: Information on free school meal eligibility is shown in the table. This includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15.

Information on the take-up of free school meals has not been provided because it is collected at school level rather than pupil level and it is therefore not possible to exclude pupils who are below or over compulsory school age, far fewer of whom claim for and take free school meals.

Maintained nursery, primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1, 2] schools: School meal arrangements[3], Richmond Park constituency, January 2010

	Number on roll[4]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
Maintained nursery and primary[1]	8,440	710	8.4
State-funded secondary[1, 2]	3,670	580	15.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Pupils eligible for free school meals who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

[4] Includes pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census.

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people are employed in his Department's Free School Group. [24967]

Mr Gibb: As at 7 December 2010, there are 67.61 FTE (full-time equivalent) people employed in the Free Schools Group.

Free Schools: Academies

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 25708 on guidance for schools wishing to convert to academy or free school status that are subject to a private finance initiative contract, tabled on 17 November 2010 for named day answer on 19 November 2010. [29068]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 December 2010]:* A response was issued on 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 256W.

Geography: Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils in each local authority were taught geography at *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A level in each of the last three years for which information is available. [22052]

Mr Gibb: The information is as follows:

(a) Information on the qualifications being taught is not collected from schools for pupils under the age of 16, so it is not possible to provide the number and proportion of pupils being taught geography at GCSE level.

(b) We do not currently hold robust data at local authority level on pupils taught specific subjects at A level.

Gifted Children

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what programmes his Department has in place to support gifted and talented children; and what funding has been allocated to each of these programmes in the latest period for which figures are available. [28447]

Mr Gibb: The Dedicated Support Grant (DSG) to schools supports a universal offer of personalised education to all pupils, including gifted and talented (G&T) pupils. In addition, during the current financial year 2010-11, the Department's anticipated expenditure on support specifically for gifted and talented pupils is £8.952 million. This breaks down as follows:

	£ million
G&T strand of the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People, managed by Youth Sport Trust	2.300
Regional Partnerships, to facilitate collaboration between schools, local authorities and higher education institutions (HEIs) to share good practice and deliver out-of-school enrichment opportunities (e.g. summer schools)	1.680
National Association for Gifted Children, to provide support and guidance for the parents of G&T pupils	0.170
G&T network of high performing specialist schools with good G&T practices providing support to other schools, managed by specialist schools and academies trust	0.210
Teach First advocates providing mentoring to over 250 disadvantaged learners in City Challenge areas	0.412
Funding to local authorities for gifted pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds in receipt of free school meals (including City GATES funding and Targeted Support)	4.000
Six other minor contracts, totalling	0.180

Grammar Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the future provision of grammar schools; and what plans he has for the future number of grammar schools. [26428]

Mr Gibb: Parents choose grammar schools because of their record of excellence and the opportunity they provide for children of all backgrounds. There are now 160 designated grammar schools, as four have converted to academy status. The Government do not intend to increase the number of designated grammar schools.

International Baccalaureate

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the International Baccalaureate (IB); and whether he plans to encourage new academies to offer the IB curriculum. [29168]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 December 2010]:* The Government recognise the quality and rigour of the International Baccalaureate (IB). It is for schools to decide to offer the IB where they consider it right for their pupils.

Academies have additional freedoms to offer an engaging curriculum which meets the particular needs of their pupils. We are very supportive of those academies that choose to offer the IB curriculum.

Languages: Education

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what budget he has allocated for the British Council's Language Assistant programme for each of the next four years. [30374]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 December 2010]:* The Department has allocated around £700,000 a year in each of the next four years to the Language Assistant programme. The exact amount will be discussed and agreed with the delivery organisation prior to the start of each financial year, as is usual practice.

Ministerial Duties

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on how many occasions Ministers in his Department have met representatives of the *(a)* Church of England, *(b)* Church of England's Education Division, *(c)* National Society, *(d)* Catholic Church in England and Wales, *(e)* Catholic Education Service, *(f)* Catholic Diocesan Schools Commission, *(g)* Catholic Association of Teachers Schools and Colleges, *(h)* Methodist Church, *(i)* Methodist Education, *(j)* Muslim Council of Britain, *(k)* Board of Deputies of British Jews, *(l)* Agency for Jewish Education, *(m)* Accord Coalition, *(n)* British Humanist Association and *(o)* National Secular Society at venues other than his Department since his appointment. [25659]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 November 2010]:* The following table gives details of the number of occasions Ministers at the Department for Education have met with representatives of the above organisations at venues other than the Department since the Secretary of State's appointment in May 2010.

Organisation	*Total number of meetings*
Church of England, Church of England's Education Division, The National Society	1
Catholic Church in England and Wales, Catholic Education Service for England and Wales	8
Catholic Diocesan Schools Commission	0
Catholic Association of Teachers Schools and Colleges	0
Methodist Church, Methodist Education	0
Muslim Council of Britain	0
Board of Deputies of British Jews	3
Agency for Jewish Education	0
Accord Coalition	0
British Humanist Association	0
National Secular Society	0

Ofsted

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the findings of the Annual Report of HM Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [27458]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 December 2010]:* The report presents a mixed picture in terms of educational performance in England. It demonstrates that across the country there are many front line professionals making a real contribution to improving standards, and notes the positive impact of academies, many of which have replaced failing schools. The report also highlights the need for high quality teaching in all schools. That is why our Schools White Paper, published last week, places teaching at the centre of the Government's plans for reform.

Pre-school Education

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to increase the take-up of free early education places by *(a)* couples and *(b)* lone parents who are not in employment; and if he will make a statement. [24852]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 22 November 2010]:* Take-up of free early education places remains high nationally, with 95% of three and four-year-olds accessing at least some of their free early education. However, significant gaps in take-up remain between children from the most disadvantaged families and their peers. To improve life chances for these families, children's centres will refocus on supporting families in the greatest need. We know that children's centre outreach workers play an important part in reaching families in greatest need. We are considering what role outreach can continue to play, alongside health visitors, social workers and other early years professionals to promote children's centre services (including free early education places for two, three and four-year-olds), to those families least likely to take up these services.

Pre-school Education: Codes of Practice

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what representations he has received from nursery providers on the effects of recent changes to the code of practice on free nursery education; [25451]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of recent changes to the code of practice on free nursery Education on the number of free nursery places available. [25450]

Sarah Teather: Primary legislation—s7 of the Childcare Act 2006—requires local authorities to secure nursery education free of charge for every three and four-year-old, whether or not there is statutory guidance in place. The legislative position is reiterated in new guidance, the code of practice, which came into force in September alongside new regulations which extend, to 15 hours per week, the amount of free nursery education to which each child is entitled. The code of practice, supports local authorities to deliver free nursery education and provides guidance on flexibility, quality, funding and working in partnership with providers. The extension and new code of practice was introduced following extensive consultation with providers and their representatives following trials in 34 pathfinder authorities.

The Department has received correspondence relating to free nursery education from providers in the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors, and from parents and local authorities. The Department is listening to the views of the early years sector on the recent extension to 15 hours per week and the additional flexibilities the code of practice introduced.

The most recent data held specifically about the take-up of free nursery education places are from "Provision for Children Under Five Years of Age in England January 2010". This showed that 22,000 more three-year-olds and 5,500 more four-year-olds were taking up nursery education, compared with 2009. 92% of three-year-olds and 98% of four-year-olds access some free nursery education. The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in maintained, private, voluntary and independent provider sectors. Information on the number of available free pre schools is not centrally available.

Primary Education: Manpower

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of teaching staff in primary schools who are *(a)* male and *(b)* female; and if he will make a statement. [27218]

Mr Gibb: In March 2009, the most recent information available, 15% of full-time regular teachers in service in local authority maintained nursery and primary schools were male and 85% were female. These figures exclude academies and are provisional. Further information is available at the following web link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000927/sfr11-2010tis.xls

Schools: Admissions

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to ensure that parents with more than one child who fulfil all relevant admissions criteria are able to send their children to the same school. [27320]

Mr Gibb: The School Admissions Code allows admission authorities to give priority to siblings when schools are oversubscribed. It is for authorities to decide, in consultation with their local communities, which oversubscription criteria are most appropriate for the needs of families in their area.

Schools: Brighton

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he had on school sport with *(a)* partnership development managers, *(b)* school sport co-ordinators, *(c)* competition managers and *(d)* primary link teachers (i) nationally and (ii) in Brighton Pavilion constituency. [27203]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State has met many stakeholders including partnership development managers, school sport co-ordinators, competition managers and primary link teachers, at events arranged by the Department and those that are organised by partners. Recent discussions with stakeholders have covered a variety of educational topics including policy on school sport. The Secretary of State has not attended any such meetings in the Brighton Pavilion constituency.

Schools: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many ring-fenced budgets relating to schools expenditure in 2010-11 will continue to be ring-fenced by his Department for 2011-12. [26449]

Mr Gibb: We are simplifying the funding for schools next year. From April 2011 there will be just two ring-fenced revenue grant funding streams for schools: the Dedicated Schools Grant and the Pupil Premium Grant.

As announced in the spending review, the Dedicated Schools Grant 2011-12 will incorporate the following 2010-11 revenue grants for schools which were paid as separate grants in 2010-11:

Funds allocated for one to one tuition

Funds allocated for 'every child programmes' such as Every Child a Reader

Extended Schools

School Lunch Grant

School Standards Grant

School Development Grant

Specialist Schools Grant

Ethnic Minority Achievement grant

The National Strategies' Budgets that were allocated to schools.

The Pupil Premium is a new grant to be introduced in 2011-12, which will provide additional funding for the most disadvantaged pupils, worth £2.5 billion by 2014-15.

Schools: Governing Bodies

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the nomination by political groupings of candidates for school governor posts. [29487]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities have statutory powers to appoint governors to the governing body of most maintained schools. They are free to decide how their representatives are chosen. The Statutory Guidance on the Constitution of School Governing Bodies encourages local authorities to appoint governors irrespective of any political affiliation or preferences, emphasising the appointment of people with the right skills to strengthen the leadership of local schools.

Schools: ICT

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made for benchmarking purposes of online learning practice in other countries; and if he will make a statement. [21906]

Mr Gibb: The Government have not carried out any recent studies explicitly to benchmark schools' online educational practice internationally but the Department does monitor and is aware of the research available in this area. The latest OECD 'Education at a Glance' publication shows that the UK fares favourably on per student expenditure compared to other OECD countries. For example we are aware of computer to pupil ratios of 1:3 at secondary, 1:7 at primary, and 1:3 at special schools in England. These figures stand up well to international comparisons and suggest healthy levels of online education which many reports suggest work best when combined with effective interpersonal teaching.

Schools: Learning Disability

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to increase the range of learning difficulties and disabilities covered by courses provided in teacher training colleges. [29062]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 December 2010]:* Government want to continue to improve the quality of teachers and teaching, and to raise the status of the teaching profession.

We are supporting teacher training institutions to develop the skills and knowledge of those entering the profession with regard to special educational needs and disabilities through a special educational needs component within initial teacher training so that teachers new to the profession are able to adapt their approach to teaching pupils with particular special needs and disabilities.

We are also supporting specialist training in dyslexia and sensory impairment and for special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCos). This training is designed to equip individual teachers with the skills and knowledge to teach pupils with special educational needs, and to prepare SENCos for a strategic role supporting the development of teaching expertise, in these areas, within their school.

I am reviewing existing policies and programmes to make sure that they support our commitment, set out in the schools white paper, to high quality teacher training.

Schools: Music

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to encourage the teaching of music in schools; and if he will make a statement. [27238]

Mr Gibb: The coalition Government believe that every child should receive a sound music education including having opportunities to learn to play a musical instrument and to sing. Music is a compulsory subject within the national curriculum from key stages 1 to 3 so every school should already be teaching music, but we are aware from Ofsted reports that standards are not consistent. On 24 September the Secretary of State announced that he had asked Mr Darren Henley, the managing director of Classic FM, to carry out a review of music education and to make recommendations on how we can make sure music funding benefits more young people and improves the music opportunities young people receive both in and out of school. We will make decisions on any action that might be needed in the light of the findings of Mr Henley's review which is due to conclude at the end of this year.

Schools: PFI

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Education who will be responsible for the payment of annual charges relating to a private finance initiative contract in schools which convert to academy or free school status. [25720]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 November 2010]:* The local authority remains responsible for the payment of the charges relating to a PFI contract, since the local authority is the party that signed the contract. However, the academy trust will be responsible for paying a contribution to the local authority.

Schools: Private Finance Initiative

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the financial savings to schools from a five basis point reduction in private finance initiative payments. [25755]

Mr Gibb: No savings from a five basis point reduction in the interest rate charged to school PFI projects would accrue to schools. Depending on how the savings arose, the benefit could go to or be shared by the swap counterparty, the private sector contractor and/or the local authority.

However, if these savings could be realised, it is estimated that a five basis point reduction in the interest payments of all BSF PFI projects signed to date would produce a saving of around £1 million per year. It is not possible to estimate accurately the savings that would result on pre-BSF PFI projects, as a substantial part of the original debt will by now have been repaid, and some of these projects have been re-financed, thus changing the amount of debt in the project.

Schools: Sports

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding for school sports partnerships was allocated to each local authority area in 2009-10. [26789]

Tim Loughton: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Local authority	£
Barking and Dagenham (LB)	694,100
Barnet (LB)	912,169
Barnsley	574,689
Bath and North East Somerset	528,225
Bedfordshire	1,746,634
Bexley (LB)	589,537
Birmingham	2,809,595
Blackburn with Darwen	462,789
Blackpool	285,118
Bolton	628,826
Bournemouth	317,044
Bracknell Forest	232,463
Bradford	1,250,958
Brent (LB)	568,319
Brighton and Hove	579,787
Bristol City	811,973
Bromley (LB)	670,248
Buckinghamshire	1,451,760
Bury	545,454
Calderdale	584,940
Cambridgeshire	1,379,693
Camden (LB)	372,613
Cheshire	1,875,904
Cornwall	1,429,174
Coventry	687,003
Croydon (LB)	845,922
Cumbria	1,780,231
Darlington	266,394
Derby	553,925
Derbyshire	2,094,412
Devon	1,801,628
Doncaster	687,179
Dorset	1,247,470
Dudley	831,666
Durham	1,681,329
Ealing (LB)	514,943
East Riding of Yorkshire	772,893
East Sussex	1,080,311
Enfield (LB)	690,726
Essex	3,149,125
Gateshead	507,795
Gloucestershire	1,834,688
Greenwich (LB)	540,755
Hackney(LB)	482,816
Halton	318,363
Hammersmith and Fulham (LB)	342,793
Hampshire	3,315,882
Haringey (LB)	519,328
Harrow (LB)	400,682
Hartlepool	283,035
Havering (LB)	622,357
Herefordshire	559,399
Hertfordshire	3,397,515
Hillingdon (LB)	931,041
Hounslow (LB)	561,242
Isle of Wight	488,506
Islington (LB)	389,262
Kensington and Chelsea (LB)	253,617
Kent	3,857,787
Kingston upon Hull	610,027
Kingston upon Thames (LB)	341,429
Kirklees	1,267,039
Knowsley	397,574
Lambeth (LB)	503,936
Lancashire	3,689,698
Leeds	1,674,292
Leicester	700,864
Leicestershire	1,972,649
Lewisham (LB)	588,098
Lincolnshire	2,371,720
Liverpool	1,198,457
Luton	443,705
Manchester	1,023,716
Medway	681,155
Merton (LB)	550,797
Middlesbrough	394,142
Milton Keynes	588,412
Newcastle upon Tyne	633,538
Newham (LB)	599,652
Norfolk	2,205,456
North East Lincolnshire	464,666
North Lincolnshire	544,776
North Somerset	395,248
North Tyneside	549,414
North Yorkshire	2,171,900
Northamptonshire	1,685,464
Northumberland	1,919,248
Nottingham	630,166
Nottinghamshire	1,909,746
Oldham	630,681
Oxfordshire	1,496,364
Peterborough	442,071
Plymouth	601,776
Poole	357,446
Portsmouth	374,080
Reading	251,056
Redbridge (LB)	598,062

Local authority	£
Redcar and Cleveland	479,083
Richmond upon Thames (LB)	315,508
Rochdale	562,827
Rotherham	675,324
Rutland	158,938
Salford	686,598
Sandwell	707,458
Sefton	757,095
Sheffield	1,136,894
Shropshire	1,062,038
Slough	364,409
Solihull	523,192
Somerset	1,556,486
South Gloucestershire	641,747
South Tyneside	428,068
Southampton	488,513
Southend-on-Sea	478,641
Southwark(LB)	661,745
St Helens	433,054
Staffordshire	2,733,191
Stockport	653,135
Stockton-on-Tees	564,744
Stoke-on-Trent	609,730
Suffolk	2,729,092
Sunderland	695,707
Surrey	2,083,647
Sutton (LB)	481,025
Swindon	477,398
Tameside	686,459
Telford and Wrekin	540,102
Thurrock	394,649
Torbay	274,871
Tower Hamlets (LB)	596,518
Trafford	597,493
Wakefield	770,605
Walsall	738,800
Waltham Forest (LB)	672,002
Wandsworth (LB)	640,812
Warrington	535,916
Warwickshire	1,553,645
West Berkshire	465,501
West Sussex	1,614,336
Westminster (LB)	392,721
Wigan	754,227
Wiltshire	1,272,570
Windsor and Maidenhead	454,123
Wirral	924,142
Wokingham	312,970
Wolverhampton	757,282
Worcestershire	1,937,226
York City	483,337
Grand total	137,568,446

Note:
Funding is allocated to School Sports Partnerships. Schools in the City of London and Isles of Scilly local authorities are members of School Sports Partnerships in neighbouring local authorities.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools in Lancashire have received school sports grants; how much was paid to each school; and how much was spent in each parliamentary constituency. [28128]

Tim Loughton: The information is set out in the following table.

Partnership Name/Hub School	*Constituency*	*Amount paid in 2009/10 (£)*
Corpus Christi/Corpus Christi Catholic Sports College	Preston	473,869
Brownedge St Mary's/Brownedge St Mary's High School and Sports College	Preston	226,487
Fearns/Fearns Community Sports College	Rossendale & Darwen	235,192
Heysham/Heysham High School Sports College	Morecambe & Lunesdale	195,019
Our Lady's/Our Lady's Catholic College Lancashire	Morecambe & Lunesdale	234,305
Worden/Worden Sports College	South Ribble	319,660
Fleetwood/Fleetwood Sports College	Blackpool North & Fleetwood	465,922
Glenburn/Glenburn Sports College	West Lancashire	338,972
Holy Cross/Holy Cross Catholic High School	Chorley	270,664
Norden/Norden High School & Sports College	Hyndburn	397,555
Blessed Trinity/Blessed Trinity RC College	Burnley	233,409
Pendle Vale/Pendle Vale Sports College	Pendle	298,644
Total		3,689,698

Note:
Grant is paid to the hub school in each partnership which allocates funding to each school in the partnership.

Schools: Standards

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent research he has evaluated on the transfer of responsibility for teaching standards from government to schools. [30049]

Tim Loughton: The White Paper, 'The Importance of Teaching', draws on evidence from the world's best education systems when it sets out the reform programme for the schools system, with schools freed from the constraints of central Government direction and teachers placed firmly at the heart of school improvement. The 'Case for Change' is an evidence-based publication that supports the case for change to our schools system; this has been placed in the House Libraries and may be accessed here:

http://publications.education.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DFE-00564-2010.pdf

The over-arching economic impact assessment of the schools White Paper has been placed in the House Libraries and may also be found on this site:

http://www.education.gov.uk/b0068570/the-importance-of-teaching/

School autonomy is increasing at an international level (OECD, 2010) and findings regarding the relationship between school autonomy and raising standards are generally positive. High performing systems use four main approaches to help teachers to teach effectively: building practical skills during initial training; placing coaches in schools to support teachers; selecting and developing effective instructional leaders; and enabling teachers to learn from one another (Barber and Mourshed, 2007).

Schools: Surveillance

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether he has had recent discussions on the installation of *(a)* CCTV, *(b)* listening devices and *(c)* other surveillance equipment in schools; and if he will make a statement; [28347]

(2) whether the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families has had discussions on the installation of *(a)* CCTV equipment, *(b)* listening devices and *(c)* other surveillance equipment in schools; and if he will make a statement. [30590]

Tim Loughton *[holding answers 3 and 14 December 2010]:* Neither my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education nor I have had meetings, discussions or correspondence about the installation of CCTV, listening devices or other surveillance equipment in schools.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to consult head teachers on the operation of careers guidance services in their schools in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [28098]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 December 2010]:* We intend to restore a focus on specialist expertise in careers guidance for young people and adults based on the core principles of independence and professionalism, and will establish an all-age careers service by April 2012. Alongside this schools will be responsible for securing appropriate access to impartial, independent careers guidance for their pupils.

We recognise the importance of consulting with schools to inform both the design and development of the new service and the transitional arrangements required to ensure smooth progress towards April 2012. We will do this in a range of ways, both informally and formally, including through the establishment of a formal advisory group.

Science: Education

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to ensure a high standard of science education, including practical science, in free schools. [25895]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 23 November 2010]:* Academies and free schools are required to teach science as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, but are not required to follow the national curriculum. This freedom allows teachers and schools to develop a creative and innovative teaching environment and to exercise their professional judgment on how to give all their pupils the best possible opportunities to learn about science, including the most able and those needing additional support.

Like maintained schools and other academies, free schools will be inspected by Ofsted. There will be clear expectations around the outcomes they are expected to achieve, including in science, and they will be held accountable against those expectations.

College of Social Work

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of establishing the College of Social Work. [30716]

Tim Loughton: In 2009 the Social Work Task Force recommended the establishment of a College of Social Work to articulate and promote the interests of good social work. It will give the profession itself strong, independent leadership; a clear voice in public debate, policy development and policy delivery; and strong ownership of professional social work standards.

The Government fully support the establishment of the College of Social Work. In order to provide independent professional leadership and voice for social work, once fully operational, the College will need to be fully funded by its members. However the Government have committed to providing £5 million for the establishment of the College to put it on a sound footing for the future.

Special Educational Needs: Teachers

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* representations he has received and *(b)* discussions he has had on the requirement for qualified teacher status and accredited training for special educational needs co-ordinators. [29250]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 December 2010]:* The Government want to continue to improve the quality of all teachers and teaching, and to raise the status of the teaching profession. The regulations requiring SENCos to be qualified as teachers and, if new to the role, to undertake nationally approved training were introduced following a recommendation by the cross-party Education Select Committee in 2006. The Committee heard evidence from parents and professionals who were concerned about variations in teaching skills among those working with SEN pupils in mainstream schools.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Green Paper will be published shortly. The Green Paper will look at a range of issues with input from parents and professionals. The work force element of the SEN Green Paper will draw on this input and will build on the reforms set out in the Importance of Teaching White Paper. More recently, my colleague, the Minister of State for Education, the hon. Member for Brent Central (Sarah Teather), has recently met a group of SENCos as part of her consideration of the issues which the Green Paper will address. A Call for Views to inform the Green Paper also received 95 responses from SENCos.

Teachers

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of shortages of qualified teachers in each region. [29422]

Tim Loughton: The numbers of qualified and unqualified teachers, by region, are published in table 3 of the School Workforce statistical first release (SFR). Tables 7 and 9 of the SFR provide further information on the vacancy rates, for full-time and part-time teachers separately, in local authority maintained schools by region. The most recent publication, containing this information for January 2010, can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000927/index.shtml

Table 1 provides the proportion of the total regular teachers in each region who are qualified. The north-west of England has the highest proportion of qualified teachers, the north-west and Yorkshire also have high proportions for the nursery and primary and special, pupil referral unit and other non-school education sectors respectively.

London has the lowest proportion of qualified teachers, the east of England also has a lower proportion of qualified teachers working in the secondary sector.

[1] Unqualified teachers include instructors, overseas trained teachers without Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and to QTS.

Table 1: Proportion of qualified teachers in local authority maintained schools by Government office region, January 2010, coverage: England

Percentage

	Government office regions									
	North-east	*North-west*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East midlands*	*West midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South-east*	*South-west*	*England*
Nursery and primary										
Headcount[2]	98.9	99.0	98.3	98.2	98.6	97.5	95.3	98.5	98.7	98.0
Regular full-time equivalent[3]	99.1	99.1	98.3	98.4	98.6	97.8	95.4	98.6	98.9	98.1
Secondary										
Headcount[2]	97.0	97.7	95.2	95.2	94.9	93.7	93.7	95.2	97.1	95.4
Regular full-time equivalent[3]	97.4	97.9	95.5	95.4	95.2	94.1	94.1	95.4	97.4	95.7
Special, PRU and other non-school education										
Headcount[2]	90.9	96.5	97.2	92.1	91.2	92.1	89.4	92.5	92.0	92.7
Regular full-time equivalent[3]	97.5	98.3	96.8	96.4	96.4	95.4	94.3	96.6	97.6	96.5
All sectors										
Headcount[2]	97.5	98.3	96.8	96.4	96.4	95.4	94.3	96.6	97.6	96.5
Regular full-time equivalent[3]	98.1	98.4	96.9	96.6	96.5	95.7	94.6	96.7	97.9	96.7

[1] The 2010 headline figures utilise 83 local authority School Workforce Census returns and 69 local authority 618g returns. The definitions used in the SWF are as close as possible to the 618g survey it replaces and validation checks indicate that the two sources are comparible.

[2] Proportion of the full and part-time head count of regular teachers who are qualified.

[3] Proportion of the sum of the full-time headcount of regular teachers and FTE of part-time regular teachers who are qualified.

Source:

618g survey and School Workforce Census.

Teachers: Males

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to use the expansion of Teach First to primary school level to increase the number of male teachers. [28421]

Mr Gibb: The Government are currently considering a wide range of issues around the future of teacher training and, in particular, what steps it should take to ensure that we have an adequate supply of high quality teachers, and how the best people can be attracted into the profession. The number of men teaching in primary schools, via Teach First or more traditional routes, is one of these issues.

Teachers: Training

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much he plans to allocate to fund teacher training in training schools in each of the next four financial years. [28053]

Mr Gibb: In the White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' we announced our intention to bring together the training school and national teaching school models to create a new national network of teaching schools from September 2011. We will make an announcement about funding arrangements for the new teaching schools shortly.

In the meantime, any schools wishing to express an interest in applying for the new designation should register their interest with National College at:

teachingschoolsenquiries@nationalcollege.org.uk

Vocational Education

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the inclusion of *(a)* independence, *(b)* economic well-being and *(c)* emotional intelligence skills training in vocational qualifications. [30044]

Mr Gibb: Professor Alison Wolf has been asked to carry out an independent review of vocational education.

She will consider the organisation, funding, and target audience for vocational education, and the principles that should underpin the content, structure and teaching methods. She will report in spring 2011, and her findings will inform future developments to improve the standard of vocational education for 14 to 19-year-olds.

Vocational Guidance: Local Government Finance

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much each local authority spent on careers and Connexions services in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and what information his Department holds on planned expenditure by each local authority on those services in 2010-11. [28099]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 December 2010]:* We do not collect information on how much local authorities spend or plan to spend on careers and Connexions services. Connexions funding has been paid to local authorities as part of the Area Based Grant (ABG) and they have been free to use the un-ringfenced ABG as they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their areas.

Vocational Guidance: Standards

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanisms will be in place to ensure that common professional standards for careers and Connexions services in each local authority will be maintained in *(a)* 2011 and *(b)* subsequent years of the spending review period. [28100]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 December 2010]:* The Government have accepted in principle the recommendations of the Careers Profession Task Force, published in its report "Towards A Stronger Careers Profession" (October 2010). Those recommendations include the establishment of professional standards for all careers professionals, quality standards for careers guidance services, and a kite mark to underpin the various quality awards for schools and colleges. We will be working with the Careers Profession Alliance, and other sector bodies, on a programme of work to implement these recommendations as we move to establish an all-age careers service.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to question 22779, on the proposed pupil premium, tabled on 6 November 2010 for ordinary written answer. [29609]

Mr Gibb: A response was issued on 8 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 353W.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to provide a substantive answer to question 29328, on ministerial guidance to officials, tabled on 2 December 2010 for answer on 7 December 2010. [31699]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* A reply to PQ29328 was issued on 14 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 734W.

Young People: Social Services

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of mapping systems in planning the provision of services for young people; [25776]

(2) what mapping systems have been developed by his Department for use in respect of the provision of services to young people. [25777]

Mr Gibb: The Department makes use of and has developed geographic information systems to provide a range of information to both internal and external customers.

These capabilities support a number of business areas including school travel, parental choice, Free Schools, the Academies Expansion Programme and school destinations of pupils in London. These tools are aimed at helping to inform a range of users including parents, schools, local authorities, as well as the Department for Education, in their decision-making.

Externally the Department provides a number of publicly available services. The EduBase website includes mapping tools which allow parents to select and view schools in their local area. The In Your Area and the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables websites use maps and geographical search facilities to allow users to navigate to a range of local statistics and school performance data. The Department also uses thematic maps to present information in a number of statistical releases.

Young People: Unemployment

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many young people in Bristol East constituency were not in education, employment or training on the latest date for which figures are available; [27937]

(2) what proportion of young people *(a)* in Bristol East constituency, *(b)* in Bristol, *(c)* in the South West and *(d)* nationally were not in education, employment or training in the latest period for which figures are available. [27939]

Mr Gibb: Official estimates of the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June and can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/index.shtml

The latest provisional data show that 9.2% of 16 to 18-year-olds were NEET at the end of 2009.

These estimates cannot be broken down below national level. However, Connexions Services collect information on the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET in each local authority area, which are published annually on the DFE website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/participation/neet/a0064101/strategies-for-16-to-18-year-olds-not-in-education-employment-or-training-neet

Figures from the Connexions data for Bristol and the south-west for the end of 2009 are shown in the following table. An England average from the Connexions data is also shown for comparison. This is different from the official SFR measure above because it relates the young person's actual age, rather than their academic age, and uses a number of different definitions. Connexions data cannot be broken down by parliamentary constituency.

	16 to 18-year-olds NEET	
	Number	*Proportion (percentage)*
Bristol	900	7.7
South-west	8,820	5.6
England	104,080	5.8

Youth Sport Trust

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families has met Baroness Campbell of Loughborough to discuss the work of the Youth Sport Trust since his appointment. [29056]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 6 December 2010]*: Since May 2010, I have met Baroness Campbell on various occasions either at events, on visits, or during the course of developing the Government's proposals on physical education and sport which has included a discussion about the Youth Sport Trust and the school Olympics. Our key proposals were set out in the Secretary of State's letter of 20 October to Baroness Campbell.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Work Clubs

22. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work clubs have been established since May 2010. [32664]

Chris Grayling: We estimate that over 350 work clubs have been established and are supporting local communities across the UK.

Pensioners: Effects of Inflation

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent research his Department has undertaken on the effects of inflation on pensioners. [32647]

Steve Webb: The Department has considered inflation indices, looking at the basket of goods and methodology of each.

We believe that the CPI is the most appropriate index to use to measure changes in the general level of prices. It is the headline measure of inflation and excludes mortgage interest payments, which are not relevant to most pensioners.

Long-term Benefit Recipients

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress he has made on his proposals to assist long-term benefit recipients into employment. [32663]

Mr Duncan Smith: The Government aim to have the new Work programme in place nationally by summer 2011. This will help people with a wide variety of needs into sustained employment, including longer term jobseeker's allowance customers, harder to help jobseeker's allowance customers, and employment and support allowance customers.

The Invitation to Tender for Work programme was issued to successful framework providers on 22 December 2010. Work programme tenders are to be returned by 14 February 2011.

Housing Benefit

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what evidence he used to determine that planned changes to housing benefit for those out of work for over 12 months will increase employment levels. [32666]

Steve Webb: We did not make any specific assumptions about the impact on employment levels of this measure. Research shows that the reasons for long term unemployment are complex. However we believe reducing housing benefit after 12 months will provide an additional financial incentive for jobseekers to take up work.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of local housing allowance recipients between the ages of 25 and 35 in receipt of each passported benefit. [29021]

Steve Webb: The requested information is shown in the table.

Breakdown of local housing allowance recipients by age and receipt of passporting benefit, August 2010

Receipt of passporting benefit	*Aged 25 to 35*
Income support	112,580
Pension credit guarantee credit	30
Jobseeker's allowance (income based)	74,070
Employment and support allowance (income related)	16,180
Not in receipt of a passporting benefit	162,660
Total local housing allowance recipients	366,230

Notes:
1. Figures are based on the single housing benefit extract (SHBE), are rounded to the nearest 10 recipients, and are as at the second Thursday of August 2010.
2. The data refer to benefit units which may be a single person or a couple.
3. The age breakdown is based on the age of the main benefit claimant; this explains the reason why there are some benefit units in receipt of pension credit.
4. Local housing allowance tenants (LHA) may include a small number of non-LHA cases making a new claim since 7 April 2008. This will include recipients in caravan accommodation.
5. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and August 2010 is the most recent available.
6. The information does not include recipients whose passported status, tenure or age is not recorded.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in the housing benefit bill attributable to the introduction of his proposed affordable rent model. [29231]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 931W, to the right hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire South (Mr Alexander).

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of claimants of local housing allowance who will make an additional payment to cover the difference between benefits received and rent paid following the implementation of his proposals to reform housing benefit; and what estimate he has made of the average amount of such weekly additional payments in each local authority by bedroom size. [31356]

Steve Webb: The Department published an analytical supplement as part of the Work and Pensions Select Committee inquiring into the impact of the changes to housing benefit announced in the June 2010 Budget. This supplement includes, on page 23, information on the ability of claimants to pay rent after the local housing allowance reforms.

This document can be accessed from:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wpsc-analytical-supp.pdf

Information on the average amount of weekly additional payments is not available.

Annuities

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to increase take-up of the open market option when purchasing an annuity. [31497]

Mr Hoban: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 836W.

Child Support

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what work the audit committee of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has undertaken on the quality of decision making in child support since the Commission's inception. [31201]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what work the audit committee of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has undertaken on the quality of decision making in child support since the Commission's inception: [31201]

The most recent Commission Audit Committee report is published on page 22 of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission Annual Report and Accounts 2009/10 and their advice is incorporated into the Statement of Internal Control published on page 37 of the same report which is available at the following link:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/pdf/annual-report/report-and-accounts-09-10.pdf

Children: Disadvantaged

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his speech to the annual conference of Relate, on 3 November 2010, what the evidential basis was for his statement that *(a)* children from broken homes are nine times more likely to become young offenders and *(b)* children in lone-parent and step-families are twice as likely to be in the bottom 20 per cent. of child outcomes as children in families headed by a married couple. [31534]

Maria Miller: In his speech to the Relate Annual Conference my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions stressed the importance of family life, drawing on information from a variety of sources.

The Youth Justice Board Annual Review 2001-02: Building on Success, showed that of a sample of young offenders under the supervision of a Youth Offending Team only 30% were living with both their mother and father, much lower than the population as a whole. For example the Office for National Statistics Publication Social Trends 32 covering a similar period shows that the proportion of children living in households headed by a couple was 79% (though this will include some step families). By comparing these relative amounts we can deduce an indicative value for the relative probability for children from broken homes coming under the supervision of a Youth Offending Team.

The relationship between family set-up and child outcomes is discussed in the 2009 Demos report 'Building Character'. As set out in the speech to the Relate Annual Conference it showed that children from lone-parent and step-families are twice as likely to have childhood outcomes in the bottom quintile.

Children: Maintenance

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's *(a)* qualitative research on promotion of child maintenance and instigating behaviour change and *(b)* evaluation of the Child Maintenance Options Service. [31273]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when he plans to publish the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's (a) qualitative research on promotion of child maintenance and instigating behaviour change and (b) evaluation of the Child Maintenance Options Service. [31273]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's research into the promotion of child maintenance and behaviour change has been completed. The final draft of the report has been reviewed and it is expected that the results will be published shortly.

The research to evaluate the Child Maintenance Options Service has also been completed. The research continues to be reviewed and the final report is currently being drafted. We expect to publish the findings in the spring of 2011.

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much in child maintenance arrears was not pursued by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission following suspension of collection in each year since 2007. [31374]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much in child maintenance arrears was not actually pursued by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission following suspension of collection in each year since 2007. [31374]

A net value of £93m in arrears of maintenance was suspended in the financial year 2006/07 and therefore deemed not feasible or insensitive to collect. This is calculated from the £388.9m that was suspended in that financial year and £295.9m of suspended arrears that were re-instated and deemed possible to collect. Arrears that were re-instated may be from previous financial years.

In 2007/08, the latest published figures available, a net value of £6.5m in arrears of maintenance were suspended. This is calculated from the £221m of arrears that were suspended in this period and £214.5m that were re-instated.

Figures for 2008/09 and 2009/10 are not available as the Commission has not yet finalised the client funds accounts for this period. The Commission continues to work with the National Audit Office with a view to publishing them in the near future.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Poverty

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of children in *(a)* absolute poverty, *(b)* relative poverty and *(c)* combined material deprivation and low income in Birmingham, Hall Green constituency. [31578]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government office region and analysis by parliamentary constituency is not possible. However, figures for the West Midlands are set out in table 1.

Table 1: Number and percentage of children living in (a) relative poverty before housing costs (BHC), (b) absolute poverty (BHC) and (c) combined material deprivation and low income in West Midlands, before housing costs

					Number of children (million) and percentage	
	Absolute poverty		Relative poverty		Combined material deprivation and low income	
Period	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.2	17	0.3	29	0.2	21

Notes

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. Number of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
5. These statistics are based on incomes before housing costs.
6. Each of the measures is defined as:

Relative poverty:

Percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income

Absolute poverty:

Percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of 1998-99 median household income held constant in real terms

Low income and material deprivation:

Percentage of children living in households in material deprivation and with less than 70% of contemporary median household income

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP.

Crisis Loans

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many crisis loans his Department has issued in the last 12 months in *(a)* North Tyneside constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England. [31888]

Steve Webb: The available information is given in the table.

Initial crisis loan awards made from December 2009 to November 2010

	Number
North East	173,490
England	2,198,620

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using official/national statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as official/national statistics and there are some issues with the data; for example, the numbers given do not include awards processed clerically which had not yet been entered on to the social fund computer system.
2. The number of initial crisis loan awards is not available by constituency, but only by Government office region or Jobcentre Plus social fund budget area.
3. The North East has been interpreted as the Government office region of that name.
4. Numbers are for initial awards only and do not include awards made after review.
5. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many invoices his Department processed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [30756]

Chris Grayling: The amount of invoices which the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has processed in the last 12 months is 859,649. This information represents the invoices for the 12 month period, December 2009 to November 2010 inclusive.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its predecessors spent on press cuttings services in each year since 1997. [28153]

Chris Grayling: The figures available for cost of press cuttings services to the Department extend as far back as 2006 due to the introduction of a new Procurement and Finance IT system in December 2005. All details of expenditure prior to this time have been archived, and therefore disproportionate costs would be incurred to produce figures prior to 2006. There were significant costs incurred in the financial year 2009-10, this was due to increased press activity in relation to the recession.

The Department is committed to driving down costs and delivering efficiencies. A new contract was agreed in April 2010 which dramatically reduced the amount of employees with access to the press cuttings and also reduced the number of cuttings actually received. We expect this to substantially reduce our costs compared to 2009-10. We continue to monitor all expenditure with a view to delivering maximum value for the taxpayer.

The cost of press cuttings services to the Department from 2006 shown in the following table are inclusive of VAT, however it should be noted that the VAT is recovered by the Department for these services:

Financial year	*Cost (inc VAT) (£)*
2006-07	124,851.88
2007-08	136,565.13
2008-09	195,906.65
2009-10	334,010.70
2010-11 (first seven months)	109,597.68

Departmental Procurement

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have taken to comply with the guidance of the Office of Government Commerce on promoting skills through public procurement issued in 2009. [31319]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions, its agencies and NDPBs are fully engaged with the Government drive to promote skills through procurement.

Supporting this, the Department launched the DWP Supplier Charter in October 2009 which the Department's key suppliers have signed up to.

Under this Charter, larger suppliers are required to commit to the Government, trade unions, private and third sector employer organisations "Joint Statement" which ensures that all employees working on Government contracts are given access to training for basic skills. Suppliers are encouraged to work with Government to unlock talent, build relevant skills and expand opportunities for people to work, offering training and apprenticeships that develop a work force with world class skills.

Furthermore, the Department has developed and implemented a contract schedule which is fully utilised in all procurement exercises to improve the number of *apprenticeships* and wider skills opportunities created through procurement. The schedule requires that suppliers:

Take all reasonable steps to employ apprentices and report to DWP the numbers of apprentices employed/wider skills training provided during delivery of the contract;

Take all reasonable steps to ensure that at least 5% of the employees involved in delivery of the contract are on a formal Apprenticeship Programme;

Make available to its employees working on the contract, information about the Government's Apprenticeship Programme and wider skills opportunities;

Provide appropriate further skills training opportunities for employees delivering the contract;

Provide a written report to DWP that provides an update against the above requirements.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* steps he is taking to encourage small businesses to bid for contracts let by his Department and *(b)* recent guidance he has provided to small businesses on bidding for such contracts. [32023]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is fully engaged with Government initiatives to promote the use of small and medium-sized enterprises and increase the level of business they get from Government. This business can be either direct, by winning departmental contracts, or indirect, working as partners with or sub-contractors to the Department's prime contractors.

We are achieving the new Government commitment that 25% of contracts will be let to small and medium enterprises and in 2009-10 achieved 29%. The Department is also fully committed to using the new cross-Government pre-qualification questionnaire which is designed to simplify the tendering process for small and medium enterprises and will be launched in December 2010.

We plan to encourage and support small and medium enterprises to form part of a wider approach set out in the DWP Commercial Strategy. This has objectives to make it easier for suppliers to compete for contracts and encourage a diverse supply base.

Small and medium-sized businesses are encouraged to contract with the Department, either as first tier suppliers where they are able or as sub-contractors for more complex contracts. Part of the approach is to use the DWP Supplier Charter, signed by the Department's top suppliers, which refers to extending its principles to small and medium-sized enterprises as sub-contractors. Under the Charter, larger suppliers are expected to use small and medium sized business and voluntary organisations as sub-contractors where it is appropriate.

Small businesses and voluntary organisations provide significant contributions to welfare to work provision where their specialist and local expertise can add great value. In preparing for the Work programme the Department has engaged with these organisations to gain their views and encourage them to become involved. It has taken steps to encourage potential prime contractors to come together with a range of partners and subcontractors where they could add value to bids and will run local events to help prime-contractors understand the needs and issues within each locality so they can put together appropriate supply chains for that area.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with voluntary and community groups on bidding for contracts let by his Department. [32024]

Chris Grayling: DWP continues to engage with and acknowledge the vital role the voluntary and community sector plays in helping people back to work through the delivery of its employment programmes. This business can be either direct, by winning departmental contracts, or indirect, working as partners with or subcontractors to the Department's prime contractors.

During the autumn and early winter we have held events across Great Britain to engage voluntary and community sector organisations in our plans for the Work programme and the commercial opportunities it presents. We also supported events with the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO), the Association of Learning Providers (ALP) and the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (CESI).

In December I wrote to representative groups from the sector encouraging them to ensure their members are aware of the opportunity the Work programme presents for them to market their value and work with larger delivery partners in delivering contracts.

DWP hosted an event on 20 December with small providers to encourage them to strengthen their hand in their dealings with prime providers and become an active participant in delivery of the Work programme.

Small businesses and voluntary organisations provide significant contributions to welfare to work provision where their specialist and local expertise can add great value. In preparing for the Work programme the Department has engaged with these organisations to gain their views and encourage them to become involved. It has taken steps to encourage potential prime contractors to come together with a range of partners and subcontractors where they could add value to bids and will run local events to help prime-contractors understand the needs and issues within each locality so they can put together appropriate supply chains for that area.

DWP is competitively neutral in letting its contracts. However, it recognises the value specialist and voluntary sector organisations can add in the delivery of welfare to work services. We actively encourage them to form partnerships and join up their expertise and financial resources to bid as a consortium to deliver our programmes directly or alternatively, market their expertise to the prime supplier as subcontractors

We are supporting partnership discussions using the Indus Delta website, hosted by the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (CESI), to provide a facility for potential framework organisations and supply chain partners to make first contact with each other.

Organisations are also encouraged to use the Merlin web portal:

www.merlinstandard.co.uk

that was launched on 25 November. This provides free support to smaller, specialist and voluntary sector providers in applying to prime providers to become part of their supply chain.

Departmental Travel

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on grey fleet in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [28846]

Chris Grayling: The DWP spent the following on grey fleet:

	£
(a) 2008-09	10,223,023
(b) 2009-10	9,749,839

Disability Living Allowance

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account he took of his Department's policy of personalisation in developing his proposals for the removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance from those in residential care homes. [30729]

Maria Miller: The Government are committed to increased personalisation of care services including for those individuals in residential care settings. This will help ensure services are tailored to the needs of each individual. The maze of legal duties, contractual obligations and service levels related to the various funding streams available to disabled people, including DLA mobility component, will need to be clarified to facilitate personalised support in the future.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in residential or nursing home care in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* Warrington were in receipt of disability living allowance in each of the last five years. [31598]

Maria Miller: Reliable estimates of total disability living allowance claimants in residential care homes are not available as we are unable to identify accurately DLA claimants who meet the full cost of their residential care.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of administering the *(a)* higher and *(b)* lower rate of the mobility component of disability living allowance received by people living (i) in residential care and (ii) independently in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [31662]

Maria Miller: The way in which management information is captured means that we are unable to provide an estimate of the cost to the public purse of administering individual components of disability living allowance to specific groups or recipients.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people living *(a)* in residential care homes and *(b)* independently who receive the mobility component of disability living allowance work (i) under 10 hours a week, (ii) between 10 and 16 hours a week, (iii) between 16 and 40 hours a week and (iv) over 40 hours a week; and if he will make a statement. [31771]

Maria Miller: Reliable estimates of the numbers of mobility component claimants in residential care homes who work is not available.

The Family Resources Survey estimates that around 15% of all mobility component recipients are in work.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people living *(a)* in residential care and *(b)* independently who receive the mobility component of disability living allowance and who lease or own (i) a car and (ii) a motability scooter paid for from that allowance; and if he will make a statement. [31772]

Maria Miller: The numbers and types of vehicles held by Motability customers in Great Britain who forgo all or part of their higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance are given in the following table.

Numbers and types of vehicles held by Motability customers in GB

	Number
Cars	564,809
Scooters	8,017
Wheelchairs	1,415

Motability estimate that around 12,000 of this total customer base live in residential care homes. They are not able to break this figure down further between people on the car scheme and people on the powered wheelchair and scooter scheme.

Disability Living Allowance and Means-tested Benefits

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged between 18 and 65 receive disability living allowance and a means-tested benefit. [31894]

Maria Miller: The estimated number of claimants aged between 18 and 65 receiving disability living allowance and a means-tested benefit at the end of May 2010 was 911,230.

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Means-tested benefits are income support, pension credit, jobseeker's allowance (income based) and employment support allowance (income based). As this estimate includes all jobseeker's allowance claims (see note 3), it will be an over-estimate.

3. In order to derive an estimate from a consistent source, this analysis is based on 100% WPLS data. It is not possible to determine from these data whether jobseeker's allowance recipients are contributory only cases, or if they are partially or wholly JSA income based recipients. Normally sample data would be used if this split was required, however no sample data are available for employment and support allowance. Therefore WPLS 100% data which include all JSA cases have been used to provide this estimate.

4. Number receiving DLA excludes people whose payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

5. For a small number of cases no age is recorded—such cases are excluded from this analysis.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence with *(a)* organisations representing disabled people and *(b)* local authorities on the subject of removing from care home residents eligibility for the mobility element of disability living allowance. [29022]

Maria Miller: As at 6 December 2010, a search of the available data in the Department's ministerial correspondence system has identified five pieces of correspondence addressed to Ministers from organisations representing disabled people on the subject of removing from care home residents eligibility for the mobility element of disability living allowance; the search has not identified any correspondence addressed to Ministers from local authorities on this matter.

The five pieces of correspondence identified have been placed in the Library.

Local authority contracts with care homes will cover services to meet a resident's assessed needs. This will cover activities of daily living which may include providing access to doctors, dentists and local services such as libraries and banks. In addition, care homes are required where practicable to promote the independence, participation and community involvement of their residents.

This is a highly complex area in terms of both funding streams and the different responsibilities of all the parties involved and there are a maze of legal duties, contractual obligations and service levels to take into account. For example, NHS-funded individuals in residential care do not receive the DLA mobility component, while those funded by local authorities do.

Disabled people and their representatives can put forward their views on this proposal as part of the wider DLA reform consultation document, which was published on 6 December 2010; copies of which are available in the Library.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what legal advice his Department has sought from the Attorney-General on the compatibility of his Department's proposed removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance from long-stay residents of local authority-funded care homes or colleges from October 2012 with the Government's statutory equality duties; and if he will make a statement. [29561]

Maria Miller: By long-standing convention, observed by successive administrations and embodied in the Ministerial Code, the fact that the Law Officers have advised (or have not advised) on a particular issue, and the content of any advice, is not disclosed outside Government.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 789W, on disability living allowance: care homes, whether his Department plans to make additional resources available to local authorities to meet the needs of residents following the removal of the mobility component of the disability living allowance for people in residential care. [31362]

Maria Miller: The Government set out the departmental resource allocations in the Spending Review announcement on 20 October 2010.

Local authority contracts with care homes will cover services to meet a resident's assessed needs. This will cover activities of daily living which may include providing access to doctors, dentists and local services such as libraries and banks. In addition, care homes are required where practicable to promote the independence, participation and community involvement of their residents.

This is a highly complex area in terms of both funding streams and the different responsibilities of all the parties involved and there are a maze of legal duties, contractual obligations and service levels to take into account. For example, NHS-funded individuals in residential care do not receive the DLA mobility component, while those funded by local authorities do.

People are also invited to put forward their views on this proposal as part of the wider DLA reform consultation document which was published on 6 December 2010. This can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2010/dla-reform.shtml

The consultation ends on 14 February 2011.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received from local authorities on his decision to remove the mobility component of disability living allowance for people in residential care. [31366]

Maria Miller: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 161W, to the right hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire South (Mr Alexander).

Disability Living Allowance: Mental Health

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effects on levels of mental health and wellbeing of recipients of the mobility component of disability living allowance in local authority-funded nursing homes and colleges of his Department's proposed removal of the mobility component from October 2012. [29735]

Maria Miller: Care homes are required, where practicable, to promote the independence, participation and community involvement of their residents. Local authority contracts with care homes will cover services to meet a resident's assessed needs. This will cover activities of daily living which may include providing access to doctors, dentists and local services such as libraries and banks.

Consideration was given to the equality impacts of the measure when the proposal was being developed. The Equality Impact Assessment for removing the mobility component of disability living allowance from state funded care home residents after 28 days will be published with the proposed legislation.

People are also invited to put forward their views on this proposal as part of the wider DLA reform consultation document which was published on 6 December 2010. This can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2010/dla-reform.shtml

The consultation ends on 14 February 2011.

Employment and Support Allowance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what interim arrangements he plans to put in place for people with *(a)* mental health conditions and *(b)* chronic fluctuating conditions who apply for employment and support allowance pending the implementation of the recommendations of the independent review led by Professor Malcolm Harrington. [32422]

Chris Grayling: As identified by Professor Harrington during his Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA), we believe that the principles of the assessment are right, but that the system which we inherited contained some flaws that risked undermining its effectiveness.

We are committed to taking forward the review's recommendations so that we can make the system fairer for claimants and fairer for the taxpayer. This is an ongoing process of improvement, so I am delighted that Professor Harrington has agreed to take on the second Independent Review of the WCA.

As with other fluctuating and chronic health conditions it is important that the WCA takes account of fluctuating mental health symptoms when assessing capability for work, it is not a snapshot view of a customer's ability to undertake day-to-day activities at any single point in time, but rather an assessment of their ability most of the time. The recommendations of the Harrington review will help us to improve the process, including for people with fluctuating mental health conditions.

Mental, intellectual and cognitive champions are due to be launched by Atos Healthcare during the first quarter of 2011, so that they are in place in time for reassessment of individuals from incapacity benefits. The champions will spread best practice regarding mental, intellectual and cognitive conditions and also handle more difficult cases.

Additionally, as the hon. Member for Bristol, East (Kerry McCarthy) may know, Professor Harrington has asked Paul Farmer, chief executive of Mind, also involving Mencap and the National Autistic Society to provide recommendations on refining the mental, intellectual and cognitive descriptors within the WCA. We look forward to receiving these recommendations shortly.

Employment and Support Allowance: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has assessed the merits of exempting people diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis from the work capability assessment for employment and support allowance pending the implementation of the recommendations of the independent review led by Professor Malcolm Harrington. [32423]

Chris Grayling: We recognise that ME has a wide spectrum of symptoms and can be a severely debilitating condition. The effects of ME on an individual may contribute to someone meeting the entitlement conditions for benefits.

However, the WCA is a functional assessment. Eligibility is not based on having a particular condition but on the impact that condition has on an individual's functional ability. This is why it is important for us to assess each claimant individually, and why no particular conditions are 'exempted' from the WCA.

We are working to implement Professor Harrington's recommendations as quickly as possible. Moreover, as part of his second independent review of the WCA, Professor Harrington is focusing in particular on the assessment of fluctuating conditions, such as ME. He will review and recommend improvements to the assessment, and we look forward to receiving his recommendations.

Employment and Support Allowance: Livingston

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants of employment and support allowance in Livingston constituency have been judged fit for work since May 2008; how many appeals against such determinations were initiated; and how many such appeals were granted. [32433]

Chris Grayling: Employment and support allowance (ESA) was introduced in October 2008. Information is not available at the constituency level, so instead data have been provided for the West Lothian local authority area, which covers the Livingston constituency.

Between October 2008 and February 2010 (the latest figures available), there have been 2,870 ESA claims received in the West Lothian local authority. Of these, 1,280, or 44%, have been found fit for work.

There have been 380 appeals against a fit for work decision heard by the end of July 2010 for claims that started between October 2008 and August 2009. Of these, 180 found in favour of the appellant meaning their eligibility for ESA was reinstated.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on ESA and the work capability assessment. The latest report was published in October 2010 and can be found on the departmental website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

Note:

All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Data are taken from: benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions; functional assessment data sourced from Atos Healthcare; and appeals data sourced from the Tribunals Service.

Employment Schemes: Contracts

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to set a limit on the amount each approved prime contractor under the Work Programme can charge for administration purposes when sub-contracting provision. [32912]

Chris Grayling: As part of the procurement process we will be asking bidders for a full breakdown of their costs for delivery including administration and will look to see that they are fair and reasonable set against their overall delivery proposals. The Department will not be seeking to limit or cap any provider's spending on administrative costs under the Work Programme as this may constrain delivery ability/options available to Prime Providers.

Employment Schemes: Further Education

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for further education colleges in the provision of training under the Work Programme; and what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with Ministers in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the role of further education colleges in the Work Programme. [32913]

Chris Grayling: As part of their wider remit of supporting customers to move off benefits and into sustainable employment, Work programme providers should consider any outstanding skills needs. Work programme providers will be able to refer eligible customers to flexible skills provision on offer locally. Alternatively they may decide to deliver training and skills support in-house or buy this in.

We are not specifying who providers should use to deliver training and skills support, but will reward the result of successfully overcoming a customer's barriers and moving them into sustained employment.

In designing the Work programme we have had and continue to hold ongoing discussion with other Government Departments including the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Work programme customers with skills barriers to employment will have the same access to Government funded flexible skills provision on offer locally as other non-work programme customers on active benefits.

Skills for Sustainable Growth, published by BIS in November 2010, sets out the Government's strategy for skills in England. DWP Ministers and officials helped to formulate this strategy and the DWP continues to work closely with BIS on the proposals to support customers on active benefits (jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance (work-related activity group)) to access state-subsidised, accredited training relevant to the local labour market. The proposals give training providers greater freedom to tailor training to the needs of the local community and economy. Jobcentre Plus will have an important role influencing the local training offer, engaging with employers, colleges and providers.

Future Jobs Fund: Waltham Forest

Dr Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people from Waltham Forest participated in the Future Jobs Fund in 2009-10; and what the employment status of each is. [32919]

Chris Grayling: Just over 300 young people from Waltham Forest have participated in the Future Jobs Fund between 1 October 2009 and the end of July 2010. This figure is derived from the latest Young Person's

Guarantee official statistics published on 13 October 2010. The Department does not keep records of the current employment status of individuals after they have left jobs supported through the Future Jobs Fund.

Housing Benefit: Fuel Poverty

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to use the Housing Benefit system to address the increase in the level of *(a)* fuel poverty and *(b)* child poverty. [30171]

Steve Webb: Housing Benefit Reform is part of a radical reform of the benefit system, which will lead to the introduction of Universal Credit. Universal Credit will create a simpler integrated system of support and improve work incentives by enabling people to keep more of their income in work. We expect that the first new claims to Universal Credit will begin from 2013.

The primary purpose of Housing Benefit is to provide help with the costs of housing. The Department will be taking forward a programme of evaluation and monitoring of Housing Benefit Reforms as they are rolled out.

Winter fuel payments provide reassurance to older people that they can turn their heating up in the winter. In winter 2009-10 we made over 12.6 million winter fuel payments. This winter we will continue to pay the winter fuel payment at the higher rate of £250 and £400 depending on age and circumstances.

Cold weather payments provide additional support to the most vulnerable in periods of exceptionally cold weather. The Government have announced that the temporary increase in cold weather payment of £25 for each week of cold weather will be made permanent.

Housing Benefit: Jobseeker's Allowance

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the average period of time for which claimants will continue to receive jobseeker's allowance (JSA) after the reduction in the level of their housing benefit payments after having been in receipt of JSA for 12 months; and what the average period of time was for which claimants remained on JSA after having been in receipt of payments for 12 months in the latest period for which figures are available. [27435]

Steve Webb: Information on the average period of time for which claimants will continue to receive jobseeker's allowance (JSA) after the reduction in the level of their housing benefit payments after having been in receipt of JSA for 12 months is not available.

For those claimants who ceased to claim JSA in Great Britain in the period August to October 2010, and had been in receipt of JSA for at least 12 months, the average claim was 18 months.

Housing Benefit: Liverpool

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many working families in Liverpool are in receipt of housing benefit. [31775]

Steve Webb: The following table provides the number of housing benefit recipients in Liverpool local authority by family type, passported indicator and employment flag. There are 5,880 families in Liverpool that are not in receipt of a passporting benefit, receive housing benefit and are in employment.

	All claimants	*Passported*	*Non-passported*		
			All	*Not in employment*	*In employment*
All family types	63,570	48,940	14,450	8,570	5,880
Single, no child dependant	40,380	32,010	8,220	6,560	1,660
Single with child dependant(s)	14,420	10,700	3,720	770	2,950
Couple, no child dependant	5,470	4,030	1,410	1,090	320
Couple with child dependant(s)	3,290	2,190	1,100	160	950

Notes:

1. The figures have been rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full-time, work more hours or earn more money.

3. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and September 2010 is the latest available.

4. People claiming housing benefit not in receipt of a passported benefit are recorded as being in employment if their local authority has recorded employment income from either the main claimant, or partner of claimant (if applicable), in calculating the housing benefit award. Employment status is not available for passported benefit recipients. 5. Passported status does not include recipients with unknown passported status.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE), September 2010.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many households in Liverpool, Wavertree constituency receive local housing allowance at the rate for a five bedroom property; [31776]

(2) how many households in *(a)* Liverpool, Wavertree constituency and *(b)* Liverpool receive over £250 per week in local housing allowance for a one bedroom property; [31777]

(3) how many households in *(a)* Liverpool, Wavertree constituency and *(b)* Liverpool receive over £400 per week in local housing allowance for a three bedroom property; [31779]

(4) how many households in *(a)* Liverpool, Wavertree constituency and *(b)* Liverpool receive over £340 per week in local housing allowance for a two bedroom property. [31780]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12" on 23 July, which is available on the Department for Work and Pensions website.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/housing-benefit/claims-processing/local-housing-allowance/impact-of-changes.shtml

Tables 22 and 23 of this document present estimates of the impact of the housing benefit caps and Table 35 presents the total number of households in each bedroom category, for each local authority.

Information at the constituency level is not available.

At present geographic breakdowns are only available for local authorities and regions. However, an exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the data; this will include parliamentary constituencies.

Housing Benefit: Scotland

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average amount of local housing allowance paid for each tenure type was in *(a)* Dumfries and Galloway local authority area and *(b)* Dumfries and Galloway constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [31536]

Steve Webb: The local housing allowance arrangements only apply to those living in the deregulated private rented sector. In September 2010, the average weekly housing benefit in Dumfries and Galloway local authority was £77.97 per week.

This information is not available at constituency level.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* local housing allowance in (i) the Dumfries and Galloway local authority area and (ii) Dumfries and Galloway constituency share their tenancy with a non-dependent for which a deduction is made from their entitlement. [31538]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available at the local level.

The Department does collect information on non-dependant deductions but to assess the completeness of recording and to quality-assure the figures would incur a disproportionate cost.

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the Dumfries and Galloway local authority area and *(b)* Dumfries and Galloway constituency receive local housing allowance. [31540]

Steve Webb: At September 2010, our records show that in Dumfries and Galloway local authority there were 1,690 recipients of housing benefit assessed under the local housing allowance arrangements.

Information at the constituency level is not available. At present geographic breakdowns are only available for local authorities and regions. However, an exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the data; this will include parliamentary constituencies.

Source:

Single housing benefit extract. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 recipients.

Independent Living Fund

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultation was undertaken before making the decision to restrict the criteria for applications for funding under the Independent Living Fund in 2010-11. [31194]

Maria Miller: The decision to limit new applications to those in employment for more than 16 hours per week was taken under the previous Government. I understand that no formal consultation occurred before this decision was made.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received from local authorities on his proposals to phase out the Independent Living Fund. [31195]

Maria Miller: Local authorities will be able to make formal representations concerning the future of the Independent Living Fund when we publish the consultation document. This will be published after the commission on the long-term funding of adult social care has reported.

Industrial Health and Safety

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) which Minister in his Department has lead responsibility for the implementation of recommendations of Lord Young's review of health and safety; [32553]

(2) what timetable he has established for the implementation of the recommendations of Lord Young's review of health and safety. [32554]

Chris Grayling: The key implementation milestones for the recommendations of Lord Young's health and safety review are shown at Annex M to his report 'Common Sense, Common Safety', which was published on 15 October 2010. The milestones were agreed by Lord Young with the Department or body responsible for taking forward each recommendation.

As Minister with responsibility for the Health and Safety Executive, I have lead responsibility within the Department for Work and Pensions for the implementation of those recommendations of Lord Young's review which fall to the Department or the Health and Safety Executive.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 357-58W, on the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), what contracts his Department had with the IFS between 2003-04 and 2010-11; what the monetary value was of each such contract; and what tender process was undertaken in each case. [28825]

Chris Grayling: The majority of contracts awarded to the Institute of Fiscal Studies by DWP between 2003-04 and 2010-11 were for Social and Economic Research. The contracted amounts for each project are shown in the following table.

Contract name	*Tender process*	*Value (£)*
Childcare use and parents employment	Open Competition	39,320
Including Disabled People and their partners in a dynamic model of Labour Market transitions	Open Competition	37,155
Lone Parent Pilots Impact Assessment. August 2004-March 2010	Let through the DWP Social and Economic Research Framework	495,561
Newborns and new schools—Critical times for women's employment. March 2005-September 2005	Let through the DWP Social and Economic Research Framework	48,520
Retirement Savings Incentives. August 2005-October 2005	Let through the DWP Social and Economic Research Framework	15,320
Ethnic Parity in Jobcentre Plus Programmes and Mainstream Services. February 2006-December 2007	Let through the DWP Social and Economic Research Framework	160,000
Impact Evaluation of NNI using DWP administrative data (Part of the overall NNI evaluation being conducted by IFS). February 2006-April 2006	Let through the DWP Social and Economic Research Framework	32,400
ELSA secondary analysis: Characteristics of those with inadequate retirement incomes. March 2006	Let through the DWP Social and Economic Research Framework	3,090
Employment Transitions and Partnership Histories. May 2006-March 2007	Let through the DWP Social and Economic Research Framework	59,310
Retention, progression and advancement for low income families. October 2007-November 2008	Let through the DWP Social and Economic Research Framework	69,605
Life time earnings and retirement income outcomes. January 2008-October 2008	Let through the DWP Social and Economic Research Framework	50,000
The living standards of families reporting low incomes. August 2008-February 2009	Let through the DWP Social and Economic Research Framework	72,364
EWL Segmentation Work—Stage 1 (Formerly 'Characteristics of those aged around the state pension age who are in and out of paid work: stage 1'. December 2008-February 2009	Let through the DWP Social and Economic Research Framework	17,020
What does the distribution of wealth tell us about future retirement resources?: Analysis of Wealth and Assets Survey. October 2009-March 2010	Let through the DWP Social and Economic Research Framework	29,990
IFS HBAI Project 02/03	Contract let by single tender	30,765
IFS HBAI Project 03/04	Contract let by single tender	29,902
IFS HBAI Project 04/05	Contract let by single tender	34,569
IFS HBAI Project 05/06	Contract let by single tender	38,093
IFS HBAI Project 06/07	Contract let by single tender	49,904
IFS HBAI Project 07/08	Contract let by single tender	48,818
IFS HBAI Project 08/09	Let through the DWP Social and Economic Research Framework	52,080
IFS HBAI Project 09/10	Let through the DWP Social and Economic Research Framework	53,265
Total		1,519,131

The discrepancy of £169,989 (to the answer of 24 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 357-8W) is due to the spend details coming from our accounts payable records and they do not necessarily match contract values.

Jobcentre Plus: Greater London

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the surface area is of each jobcentre in each London borough. [32918]

Chris Grayling: The internal surface area by square metre of each Jobcentre building in each London borough is listed in the following table.

District	*Site*	*Boroughs*	*Square Metre*
NNE	Barking	Barking and Dagenham	2,967
NNE	Dagenham	Barking and Dagenham	1,102
NNE	Romford	Havering	3,183
NNE	Hornchurch	Havering	1,155
NNE	Redbridge	Redbridge	1,800
NNE	Leytonstone	Waltham Forest	2,001
NNE	Walthamstow JC	Waltham Forest	1,677
NNE	Barnet	Barnet	1,365
NNE	Edgware.	Barnet	1,204
NNE	Hendon.	Barnet	1,433
NNE	Finchley.	Barnet	703
NNE	Enfield	Enfield	1,015
NNE	Palmers Green	Enfield	1,210
NNE	Edmonton	Enfield	667
NNE	Tottenham	Haringey	1,545
NNE	Wood Green	Haringey	1,382
CL	Kentish Town	Camden	999
CL	Highgate	Islington	2,709
CL	Barnsbury	Islington	1,535
CL	Finsbury Park	Islington	1,428
CL	North Kensington	Kensington and Chelsea	1,251
CL	St Marylebone	Westminster	2,950
CL	Westminster	Westminster	1,243
SL	Bexleyheath	Bexley	2,070
SL	Bromley	Bromley	5,464
SL	Croydon	Croydon	1,546
SL	Purley	Croydon	791
SL	Thornton Heath	Croydon	959

District	*Site*	*Boroughs*	*Square Metre*
SL	Woolwich	Greenwich	2,112
SL	Eltham	Greenwich	764
SL	Lewisham	Lewisham	2,305
SL	Forest Hill	Lewisham	1,679
SL	Mitcham	Merton	971
SL	Sutton	Sutton	2,321
SL	Twickenham	Richmond upon Thames	1,214
SL	Kingston	Kingston Upon Thames	2,999
LSW	Kennington Park	Lambeth	2,580
LSW	Stockwell	Lambeth	1,459
LSW	Streatham	Lambeth	3,013
LSW	Brixton	Lambeth	4,008
LSW	Clapham Common	Lambeth	1,120
LSW	London Bridge	Southwark	1,482
LSW	Peckham	Southwark	1,669
LSW	Camberwell	Southwark	876
LSW	Wandsworth	Wandsworth	1,775
WL	Harlesden	Brent	2,721
WL	Kilburn	Brent	1,341
WL	Willesden	Brent	4,334
WL	Wembley	Brent	1,378
WL	Ealing	Ealing	1,600
WL	Southall	Ealing	1,041
WL	Acton	Ealing	3,804
WL	Fulham	Hammersmith and Fulham	3,149
WL	Hammersmith	Hammersmith and Fulham	1,981
WL	Shepherds Bush	Hammersmith and Fulham	1,120
WL	Harrow Kings House	Harrow	2,752
WL	Harrow Station Road	Harrow	887
WL	Uxbridge	Hillingdon	1,136
WL	Hayes	Hillingdon	910
WL	Hounslow	Hounslow	4,730
C and E	Hoxton	Hackney	2,060
C and E	Dalston	Hackney	1,137
C and E	Stratford	Newham	1,362
C and E	Canning Town	Newham	1,220
C and E	Plaistow	Newham	1,219
C and E	East Ham	Newham	743
C and E	Poplar	Tower Hamlets	2,002
C and E	City	Tower Hamlets	2,149
C and E	Hackney	Hackney	2,230

Jobseeker's Allowance: Young People

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged 18 to 24 years had been receiving jobseeker's allowance for more than nine months in October 2010. [31211]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged 18 to 24 years had been receiving jobseeker's allowance for more than nine months in October 2010. (031211)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

The number of people aged 18 to 24 years who have been claiming JSA for more than nine months in October 2010 was 36,025.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Motability: Scotland

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 789W, on disability living allowance: care homes, how many users of the Motability scheme there are in Scotland. [31361]

Maria Miller: Motability is an independent charitable organisation and is wholly responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme. Motability has advised that there are around 60,000 users of the Motability scheme in Scotland.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 819W, on disability living allowance: care homes, how many claimants of disability living allowance, who live in residential care and will be affected by his proposed reforms, live in Scotland. [31365]

Maria Miller: We estimate that approximately 6,000 people who claim the mobility component of disability living allowance and live in residential care in Scotland will be affected by the measure to cease paying the mobility component from October 2012.

National Insurance: Fraud

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the level of fraudulent use of national insurance numbers; and what steps he is taking to reduce the fraudulent use of such numbers. [30318]

Chris Grayling: The national insurance number is a unique personal reference number used for tax, national insurance, state benefits and credits and student loans. Estimates of national insurance numbers that are used fraudulently are not available.

DWP has robust gateway checks in place to prevent national insurance numbers being used fraudulently for benefit purposes. Where the Department identifies that a national insurance number has been used for attempted benefit fraud or is aware that a national insurance number may be vulnerable to fraudulent use, the relevant national insurance number account is annotated accordingly on DWP systems and any subsequent benefit claim using that national insurance number would automatically be subjected to close scrutiny and, if appropriate, be referred to DWP's Fraud Investigation Service. The Department currently has 8,500 accounts marked as vulnerable.

In addition, as part of the adult national insurance number process, robust identity verification checks are in place to prevent fraudsters acquiring national insurance numbers. During 2009-10, Jobcentre Plus refused to allocate national insurance numbers on 47,000 applications.

New Deal Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many episodes of work have been mandated since the introduction of the Flexible New Deal; how many individuals have participated in such episodes; and how many sanctions have been issued for non-compliance. [28204]

Chris Grayling: This information is not available in the format requested.

North East

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Ministers in his Department have visited the North East since their appointment; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose was of each such visit. [31795]

Chris Grayling: The Minister for Pensions went to the north-east on 6 October where he visited the Newcastle Pension Centre to meet local staff and then travelled onto the Trinity Community Centre in Gateshead to meet older members of the community who use the centre.

Pension Credit

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to reform the administration of pension credit. [31603]

Steve Webb: DWP Ministers are currently looking at options to simplify the state pension system for future pensioners and also wider welfare reform. Any change to pension credit will be considered as part of these reviews.

Pensions: Publicity

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to increase the level of information his Department provides to the public on *(a)* auto-enrolment and *(b)* National Employment Savings Trust pension schemes amongst (i) employers and (ii) employees. [32579]

Steve Webb: The Department will deliver communications and information to individuals and support the Pensions Regulator's engagement with employers and their intermediaries by raising awareness of the reforms and automatic enrolment.

Firstly on automatic enrolment:

(i) Employers

The Pensions Regulator is responsible for providing information about how employers can comply with their new duties and their communication and education campaigns are designed to achieve this.

The Regulator will be writing to all employers several times ahead of their staging date telling them what their staging date is and directing them to the website where they will be able to find out all the information they will need about how to comply with the reforms.

We continue to work closely with the Regulator to ensure that there is coherent and consistent information available to meet the needs of employers.

(ii) Employees

Current plans are to make information and guidance available to all individuals so that in the run up to automatic enrolment and beyond people will have access to information about pensions. Our information service will be a key part of our wider communications plans to support the reforms, and will explain the reforms in a simple and accessible way. Information about automatic enrolment will be presented as part of wider information on retirement planning.

We will ensure that information is available in a range of accessible and relevant formats, including online, via telephone, and in print where appropriate.

We are also working with key information partners to signpost to more specialist, independent or more general financial information as part of our strategy. In particular we are working with the Pensions Advisory Service and the Consumer Financial Education Body

There is currently some outline information on the DWP website which explains the reforms at the following web address:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/pensions-reform/workplace-pension-reforms/

Secondly on increasing information on NEST:

The NEST Corporation will provide information about NEST to employers, employees and third parties. The information will aim to support employers who may be considering the option of choosing NEST for their employees and will aim to support scheme members in their decision making, such as fund choice.

The information will be supported by communications and information from DWP and the Pensions Regulator on the introduction of automatic enrolment.

NEST is now a scheme in its own right and is subject to the same legal requirements as other trust-based occupational pension schemes. It will be required to provide a range of information related to the scheme to various parties including participating employers and scheme members.

Poverty: Children

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of children in Dartford constituency living in *(a)* absolute and *(b)* relative poverty. [31856]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government office region and analysis by parliamentary constituency is not possible. However, figures for South East of England are set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Number and percentage of children living in (a) absolute poverty Before Housing Costs and (b) relative poverty in the South East of England. Before Housing Costs (BHC)

Period	*Absolute poverty*		*Relative poverty*	
	Number (million)	*Percentage*	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.2	9	0.3	15

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. Numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
5. These statistics are based on incomes Before Housing Costs.
6. Each of the measures is defined as: Relative poverty: percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income. Absolute poverty: percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of 1998-99 median household income held constant in real terms.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP.

Social Security Benefits

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to support long-term claimants of jobseeker's allowance in areas where New Deal contracts will cease to take new referrals from the end of December 2010 before the Work Programme commences. [31381]

Chris Grayling: We want to ensure that as many people as possible benefit from the Work Programme as soon as possible, and will launch the Work Programme as soon as providers are ready to start delivery in each contract package area. We aim to have the new Work Programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011.

We are determined to ensure that there is continuity of provision, and that the transition to the Work Programme does not leave any customer unsupported. Therefore, New Deal and Employment Zone contracts will be extended until June 2011, ensuring that customers referred to these programmes in March will be supported until the summer, by which time the Work Programme will have been rolled out.

Before their referral to the Work Programme, customers will have access to support delivered through Jobcentre Plus, including access to work experience, help to volunteer for or take advantage of peer-to-peer support, as well as help with basic skills or jobsearch techniques and access to the Jobcentre Plus Flexible Fund.

Social Security Benefits: Drugs

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many problem drug users resident in *(a)* Chatham and Aylesford constituency, *(b)* Medway constituency and *(c)* Tonbridge and Malling constituency were in receipt of incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance in each year since 2005; [31103]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Medway constituency, *(b)* Tonbridge and Malling constituency and *(c)* Chatham and Aylesford constituency in receipt of out-of-work benefits who are unable to work as a result of (i) alcohol and (ii) drug dependency. [31104]

Maria Miller: As outlined in the Government's recently published 2010 Drug Strategy, substance dependency is one of the most damaging root causes of poverty, and helping people who are trapped on benefits through drug and alcohol addiction to recover and find employment is a top priority for this Government.

Such information as is available is presented in the following tables.

Information on the numbers of problem drug users (those using heroin and/or crack cocaine) who claim incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance is not available at the geographical breakdown requested. Table 1 shows the numbers of people in receipt of these benefits who declare that their main disabling condition is dependency on any drug. It should be noted that these figures represent a subset of all such claimants with a drug problem as those who do not report drug dependency as their main disabling condition are not captured.

Similarly, information on the number of people in receipt of out of work benefits, who are unable to work as a result of a drug or alcohol dependency, is not available at the geographical breakdown requested. Table 2 shows all claimants in receipt of disability benefits who have declared drug or alcohol abuse as the main disabling condition. These figures represent a subset of all working-age benefit recipients with a drug or alcohol dependency, as claimants who do not record these as their main disabling condition are not captured, nor are people on jobseeker's allowance or income support for whom this information is not recorded.

Table 1: Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants with drug abuse as main condition: May 2005-May 2010

Parliamentary constituency (pre-2010 boundaries)	*May 2005*	*May 2006*	*May 2007*	*May 2008*	*May 2009*	*May 2010*
Chatham and Aylesford	50	50	60	70	60	60
Medway (Rochester and Strood for May 2010 figures only)	50	60	60	70	60	40
Tonbridge and Malling	10	20	20	20	10	10

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10 claimants.
2. These figures refer to claimants whose problems relate to any drugs (including prescription ones). Claimants who do not report drug dependency as their main disabling condition are not captured, meaning that these figures represent a subset of all such claimants with a drug problem.
3. Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance were replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) for new claimants in October 2008.
4. Drug dependency does not of itself confer entitlement to disability benefits, this is determined by a person's capability or capacity for employment. Where individuals with a substance dependency are in receipt of such benefits it will be because they have other diagnoses, for example mental illness, which limit their capability for work.
5. Figures for May 2010 are for Rochester and Strood as the parliamentary constituency boundary for Medway was revised for the 2010 general election and as a result was largely incorporated into Rochester and Strood by the Boundary Commission for England in 2010.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).

Table 2: Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance claimants with alcoholism or drug abuse as a main condition May 2010

Parliamentary constituency (2010 boundaries)	*Alcoholism*	*Drug abuse*
Chatham and Aylesford	70	70
Rochester and Strood	60	60
Tonbridge and Malling	20	20

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10 claimants.

2. These figures refer to claimants whose problems relate to alcohol or any drugs (including prescription ones). Claimants who do not report drug or alcohol dependency as their main disabling condition are not captured, nor are people on JSA or IS for whom this information is not recorded, meaning that these figures represent a subset of all claimants with a drug or alcohol problem.

3. Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance were replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) for new claimants in October 2008.

4. Drug or alcohol dependency does not of itself confer entitlement to disability benefits; this is determined by a person's capability or capacity for employment. Where individuals with a substance dependency are in receipt of such benefits it will be because they have other diagnoses, for example mental illness, which limit their capability for work.

5. Parliamentary constituency boundaries were revised for the 2010 General election. Medway constituency was largely incorporated in to Rochester and Strood by the Boundary Commission for England in 2010.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).

Social Security Benefits: Scotland

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of local housing allowance who have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months live in *(a)* the Dumfries and Galloway local authority area and *(b)* Dumfries and Galloway constituency. [31537]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Information is collected on the number of claimants in receipt of a passporting benefit, which includes income-based jobseeker's allowance.

However neither the total number of jobseeker's allowance claimants receiving housing benefit nor the duration of such claims is available.

Social Security Disability Living Allowance Regulations 1991

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the merits of bringing forward legislative proposals to amend the Social Security Disability Living Allowance Regulations 1991 to allow families to continue to receive disability living allowance when their children are in hospital or other care settings. [32330]

Maria Miller: Payment of disability living allowance and carers allowance continues to be made to children under 16 years in a hospital or a similar institution for the longer period of 84 days to avoid terminating payment of benefit for relatively short periods in hospital.

Whereas those aged 16 and over retain payment of disability living allowance for 28 days, under 16s have a longer period of 84 days in recognition of the special needs that they may have for support from their parents while they are adjusting to hospital life.

To leave benefit in payment indefinitely would mean that the Government were making provision twice for the same basic need, which would not be an effective use of taxpayers' money.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receive the basic state pension. [30835]

Steve Webb: 11,268,300 people were in receipt of the basic state pension in March 2010.

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

2. Numbers are based on a 5% sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.

3. Figures are rated in line with the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study total caseload.

Source:

DWP, Information Directorate, 5% administrative data

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the amendment of the terms of the second state pension to enable those aged under 45 years with no dependent children to receive additional benefits accrued by their deceased spouses or civil partners; and if he will make a statement. [31514]

Steve Webb: A small number of individual representations regarding the benefits available to people who are bereaved aged under 45 years with no dependent children have been received.

As is the case for all benefits, bereavement benefits are kept under constant review. Any potential change to bereavement benefits in the future would be considered within the context of wider welfare reform and our commitment to create and deliver a 21st century welfare system.

Travel to Interview

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will take steps to ensure that jobseekers living in rural areas with few transport connections are not disadvantaged by the use of a distance criterion rather than a travelling time criterion when being considered for financial support provided by Jobcentre Plus for travelling to interviews; [32166]

(2) if he will assess the merits of measuring the qualifying distance for financial assistance under the Jobcentre Plus travel to interview scheme by travelling time rather than mileage; [32167]

(3) what distance a jobseeker must travel to attend an interview to qualify for financial assistance under the Jobcentre Plus travel to interview scheme. [32168]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking if he will take steps to ensure that jobseekers living in rural areas with few transport connections are not disadvantaged by the use of a distance criterion rather than a travelling time criterion when being considered for financial support provided by Jobcentre Plus for travelling to interviews; if he will assess the merits of measuring the qualifying distance for financial assistance under the Jobcentre Plus travel to interview scheme by travelling time rather than mileage and what distance a jobseeker must travel to attend an interview to qualify for financial assistance under the Jobcentre Plus Travel to Interview Scheme. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Darra Singh as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Darra Singh is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

The Travel to Interview Scheme is there to help our customers make the move from benefit into gainful employment. It aims to encourage customers to widen their jobsearch by helping them with travel costs to attend interviews outside their local travel to work area.

As travel to work patterns vary enormously, it is the responsibility of the Jobcentre to determine normal daily travelling distance throughout Great Britain. The Jobcentre takes the following factors into account when setting their boundaries:

Do local people commonly travel to the place of interview?

How far away is the place of interview?

How long will the journey take by public transport or car?

How much will it cost to travel to the interview?

Using their local knowledge, our Jobcentres factor in both distance and travelling time when setting their boundaries and this ensures that jobseekers in rural areas are not disadvantaged when they seek help with travel to interview costs. Each application is considered on its merits, taking the above factors into account before deciding whether help can be given.

Advisers also have the discretion to help customers with travel costs to attend interviews within the local travel to work area, using their professional judgment for each individual case. Help may be given where a customer has several interviews within a short period of time or the cost of attending an interview will cause them financial hardship. In all cases the best interest of the customer must be the main consideration. There is no minimum travel distance; the only condition is that the cost of attending a single local job interview must exceed £4.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what strategy his Department has in place to ensure the implementation of obligations arising from the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities; and by what means he expects the Office for Disability Issues to discharge its role as both the focal point and coordinating mechanism for implementation of that convention. [32035]

Maria Miller: The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) is designated as the UK Government focal point for work on the UN convention on the rights of disabled people under article 33 of the convention. The ODI is working with Departments across Westminster, and with the devolved Administrations to implement and report on the convention. This work includes raising awareness of the convention's obligations so that Departments are aware of their responsibility to take it into account in the development and implementation of policies which may affect disabled people, and coordinating the UK Government report to the United Nations.

ODI is working directly with disabled people, including disabled children, in order to raise awareness of the convention and learn about their views on how the UK is implementing it, in the spirit of article 33(3) of the convention. This includes working with a convention working group chaired by the UK Disabled People's Council (UKDPC), and supporting a number of convention-related awareness and training events organised by UKDPC.

ODI is also working with the four UK equality and human rights commissions which have been designated as the independent monitoring and reporting mechanism for the convention under article 33(2). ODI has supported a number of events held by the commissions in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to raise awareness, and help inform the reporting process.

The wider Department for Work and Pensions is also committed to implementing the convention in relation to its policy and delivery activities. It is working closely with ODI and will be contributing to the UK Government report in 2011.

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to implement its obligations arising from the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in respect of *(a)* Article 8, *(b)* Article 12, *(c)* Article 19, *(d)* Article 27, *(e)* Article 28 and *(f)* other Articles of that convention. [32039]

Maria Miller: The Department for Work and Pensions is committed to the UN convention on the rights of disabled people, and to protecting the rights of disabled people and promoting choice and control in their daily lives.

In respect of article 8, the Department has made a strong public commitment to the social model of disability, and the Office for Disability Issues has been working closely with the equality and human rights commissions across the UK to raise awareness of the convention.

In respect of article 12, the Department has made good progress in developing a review process for benefit appointees, with a view to removing the reservation to article 12(4). This is a major undertaking because there are close to 900,000 DWP customers with appointees.

In respect of article 19, we launched the Right to Control on 13 December. This is a new legal right to give disabled people control over the support they receive. Disabled people can choose how to spend funding they receive from six different sources in order to maximise their choice and independence. Right to Control is being tested in seven local authority areas in England, in partnership with Jobcentre Plus and disabled people's organisations.

In respect of article 27, we launched Work Choice on 25 October 2010. Work Choice provides tailored support to help disabled people who face the most complex barriers to employment. It supports them to find employment and stay in work and ultimately helps them progress into unsupported employment. Work Choice is voluntary and available regardless of any benefits being claimed.

In respect of article 28, the Department is playing its part in tackling the deficit and bringing spending under control. The Department remains committed to supporting the people who need it most, and protecting the most vulnerable in our communities. We are committed to understanding the impact of our policies on disabled people and will be undertaking equality impact assessments, which will be made public.

As regards the wider convention, the Department recognises the principle of involvement of disabled people in the development of policies that affect them, and is engaging with disabled people on key changes such as the reform of disability living allowance.

The UK Government will report to the UN in July 2011 setting out how implementation of the convention has been achieved across Government. DWP officials are working with officials at the Office for Disability Issues in preparing the report, and this will set out in more detail what the Department is doing to meet its obligations across the convention as a whole, including articles 8, 12,19, 27 and 28.

Universal Credit

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in respect of which marginal deduction rates will increase consequent on the implementation of his proposals for a Universal Credit. [32131]

Chris Grayling: Following full implementation of Universal Credit, marginal deduction rates will reduce for around 1.5 million workers in total, with the average (median) reduction in marginal deduction rate being 20 percentage points. As part of this, Universal Credit will particularly improve earnings incentives for 700,000 low-earning workers, reducing the highest marginal deduction rates from 95.8% to around 76%.

The Government are committed to ensuring that no-one loses as a direct result of these reforms and we expect 350,000 children and 500,000 working-age adults to be moved out of poverty. We also anticipate that the Universal Credit will reduce the number of workless households by around 300,000.

Around 2 million workers will see an increase in their marginal deduction rates with a median increase of just 4 percentage points, and none of these households will be worse off financially when they move to Universal Credit. A change in marginal deduction rate does not mean a change in what a family receives, only a difference in how much of their benefit they retain as they increase their hours worked or earnings marginally. Indeed, many of these families will see this change in their marginal deduction rates because Universal Credit allows low-earning households to keep more of their benefit, so as a consequence some households who previously received no state support will now do so. They will therefore have an increased marginal deduction rate but a higher income, as they are now receiving support which is withdrawn where previously there was none. Other households among this group will receive more than they previously did—and hence be better off financially. Some households will see a slight increase in deduction rates but they and their families will see no actual loss at the point of change, because they will be transitionally protected.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any Universal Credit payments attributable to official error will be recoverable from recipients as debts. [29619]

Chris Grayling: As announced in the joint DWP/HMRC strategy paper, 'Tackling fraud and error in the benefit and tax credits systems', we will be bringing forward proposals in the Welfare Reform Bill to widen the range of working age benefit overpayments we can recover and this will include those resulting from official error. While the Department must take responsibility for its mistakes, that does not give people the right to keep taxpayers' money that they are not entitled to.

However, we recognise that recovery will not be appropriate in all cases, and the legislation will be supported by a code of practice which will set out the type of case where recovery action will not be taken. This will include overpayments arising from official error where the customer accepted the payment in good faith and where, given the customer's circumstances, it would be unreasonable for the money to be repaid.

Winter Fuel Payments: Appeals

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average waiting time for an appeal decision on a rejected Winter Fuel payment claim was in the latest period for which figures are available. [31887]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The average waiting time for an appeal decision on a rejected Winter Fuel payment, in April to June 2010 (the latest period for which data are available), was 7.47 weeks from receipt at the Tribunals Service to promulgation.

Work Programme

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with existing charitable providers of welfare to work services on the introduction of the Work Programme. [32132]

Chris Grayling: DWP continues to engage and acknowledge the vital role the voluntary and community sector plays in helping people back to work through the delivery of its employment programmes. This business can be either direct, by winning departmental contracts, or indirect, working as partners with or sub-contractors to the Department's prime contractors.

During the autumn and early winter we have held events across Great Britain to engage voluntary and community sector organisations in our plans for the Work Programme and the commercial opportunities it presents. We also supported events with the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) Association of Learning Providers (ALP) and the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (CESI).

In December I wrote to representative groups from the sector encouraging them to ensure their members are aware of the opportunity the Work Programme presents for them to market their value and work with larger delivery partners in delivering contracts.

DWP hosted an event on 20 December with small providers to encourage them to strengthen their hand in their dealings with prime providers and become an active participant in delivery of the Work programme.

Small businesses and voluntary organisations provide significant contributions to welfare to work provision where their specialist and local expertise can add great value. In preparing for the Work Programme the Department has engaged with these organisations to gain their views and encourage them to become involved. It has taken steps to encourage potential prime contractors to come together with a range of partners and sub-contractors where they could add value to bids and will run local events to help prime contractors understand the needs and issues within each locality so they can put together appropriate supply chains for that area.

DWP is competitively neutral in letting its contracts. However, it recognises the value specialist and voluntary sector organisations can add in the delivery of welfare to work services. We actively encourage them to form partnerships and join up their expertise and financial resources to bid as a consortium to deliver our programmes directly or, alternatively, to market their expertise to the prime supplier as subcontractors.

We are supporting partnership discussions using the Indus Delta website, hosted by the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (CESI), to provide a facility for potential Framework organisations and supply chain partners to make first contact with each other.

Organisations are also encouraged to use the Merlin Web Portal:

www.merlinstandard.co.uk

that was launched on 25 November. This provides free support to smaller, specialist and voluntary sector providers in applying to prime providers to become part of their supply chain.

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to award additional prime contracts to new providers in the initial contract period of the Work programme. [32196]

Chris Grayling: We are soon to complete the Employment Related Support Services Framework which will have some providers/organisations who have not previously delivered Welfare to Work Provision for the Department.

Successful framework providers will shortly be invited to tender for the Work programme which will roll out nationally from summer 2011. The results from this competition will not be available until May 2011.

In addition, those organisations who are on the framework will have the opportunity to compete for further work in future competitions both for DWP, and other Government Departments.

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what evidence he considered from previous contracts held by his Department when deciding the length of contracts under the Work programme; and if he will make a statement. [32197]

Chris Grayling: Our experience has shown that longer contracts are a more commercially attractive proposition and are likely to attract wider market interest. A longer contract will also offer stability for providers enabling them to continue to invest in delivery and further increase the prospects of DWP customers entering and sustaining employment.

Working Time Directive

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the number of employees who have opted out of the provisions of the Working Time Directive. [31612]

Chris Grayling: On 30 November 2010 there were 29 employees in the Department for Work and Pensions who had opted out of the working time directive.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Public Consultation

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many consultations his Department has undertaken lasting *(a)* less than six weeks, *(b)* six to 12 weeks and *(c)* over 12 weeks in each of the last three years. [32471]

Gregory Barker: DECC consultations follow the Government Code of Practice on consultations:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file47158.pdf

This recommends that, under normal circumstances, consultations should last a minimum of 12 weeks but acknowledges that deviation from the code will, at times, be unavoidable when running a formal, written consultation.

Since DECC was formed in October 2008, consultations have been run for the following periods:

Consultations

			Number
	12 weeks or longer	*Six to 12 weeks*	*Less than six weeks*
2008	2	1	0
2009	25	8	2
2010	19	14	8

Electricity: Licensing

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely change in energy costs for consumers that will result from his proposals to ensure third-party access to licence-exempt electricity networks in *(a)* ports, *(b)* railway stations, *(c)* London Underground stations, *(d)* industrial estates, *(e)* marinas, *(f)* airports and *(g)* caravan parks. [32469]

Charles Hendry: The provision of third party access to unlicensed networks will enable consumers of those networks to take advantage of the competitive energy market by choosing their energy supplier. In their 2008 Energy Supply Probe the energy regulator, Ofgem estimated that customers switching their energy supplier could make a saving of up to 6% on their energy costs.

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what factors he took into account in determining the length of the consultation period on the provision of third party access to licence-exempt electricity and gas networks. [32470]

Charles Hendry: DECC consultations follow the Government code of practice on consultations

http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file47158.pdf

This recommends that, under normal circumstances, consultations should last a minimum of 12 weeks but acknowledges that deviation from the code will, at times, be unavoidable when running a formal, written consultation.

The five week consultation period on the provision of third party access to licence-exempt electricity and gas networks was determined on the basis that it was a final detailed consultation that followed both the formal 12 week consultation that set out the Government's policy intentions and a call for evidence that sought stakeholder views. It also followed an extensive stakeholder engagement programme. The details of that programme, which included a workshop and numerous bilateral meetings, can be found in my answer to PQ 27009, 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 12W.

Energy: Heating

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many new build non-residential properties were built with ground source heat pumps in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008 and *(e)* 2009. [32399]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold information on the overall number of new build non-residential properties constructed with ground source heat pumps (GSHP). These works are carried out by private contractors who have no obligation to inform the Government. Under the previous low carbon buildings programme, the following numbers of grants for ground source heat pumps for new-build non-residential properties were given between 2005 and 2009.

Non-residential	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
GSHP grants	0	0	2	21	34	57
GSHP grant value (total)	0	0	43,777	260,928	672,252	976,957
GSHP approx capacity KW	0	0	57.5	304.6	664.5	1,026.6

Energy: Prices

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received from energy providers on *(a)* recent and *(b)* forthcoming energy price increases. [31999]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet with suppliers on a regular basis to discuss market issues. Ofgem monitors the market closely and reports quarterly on retail prices. Their latest report shows large increases in estimated supplier margins for the year ahead, largely due to recent price increases. We are disappointed on behalf of consumers by this development and welcome the announcement of Ofgem's review of the retail market.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 808W, on energy: prices, (1) when he expects the Energy Intensive Industry Strategy to be completed; when he plans to make an announcement on that strategy; and if he will make a statement; [32324]

(2) what policy options he is considering for energy-intensive industries where further cost-effective abatement opportunities are not available in the short term. [32325]

Charles Hendry: All sectors of the economy need to make significant improvements in energy efficiency if we are to meet our legally binding carbon and renewables targets. Improving energy efficiency and reducing emissions—as part of our transition to a low carbon economy—will require significant investment and innovation but will also bring benefits by lowering costs, making businesses more competitive and opening new markets. The Energy Intensive Industry Strategy will examine the implications and opportunities of this transition for that sector.

I will consider policy options once the ongoing research and analysis to support the Energy Intensive Industry Strategy has been completed.

The coalition Government plan to publish their findings in the spring.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had on electricity price rises attributable to his proposals for electricity market reform with representatives of energy companies. [32366]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State has regular meetings with energy companies during the course of his normal departmental and parliamentary business.

Before the consultation on Electricity Market Reform was published on 16 December 2010 it was not possible to have any detailed discussions about the impact of policy proposals on electricity prices as the details of these policy proposals were not public. However, during the consultation period and in the period up to the White Paper in 2011 the Secretary of State will have discussions with energy companies and a wide range of others about the electricity market reform proposals, including issues related to prices and measures to reduce energy consumption.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the effects on each decile of the population by income of the average change in electricity bills attributable to his proposals for electricity market reform in each of the next five years. [32367]

Charles Hendry: On 16 December 2010, Government launched consultations on a package of options for reforming the electricity market. The preferred package is to have a feed-in-tariff with a 'contract for difference' model for supporting low-carbon generation in combination with a targeted capacity mechanism, carbon price support and an emissions performance standard.

The impact assessment accompanying the consultation provides insights into the affordability of the reform options for different households by looking at the increase in the electricity bill for 2020 as a percentage of total household expenditure (when compared to a baseline absent of the reforms). This analysis for 2020 in relation to the preferred package of reforms is presented in the following table along with additional estimates for 2013 and 2016. Estimates for other years are not available. The table shows for example, the bottom income decile in 2013 will spend an extra 0.03% of its expenditure on electricity as a result of the proposed reforms.

	Impact of preferred reform options on electricity spending as a percentage share of total expenditure		
Income decile	*2013*	*2016*	*2020*
Bottom	0.03	0.18	0.09
2	0.03	0.18	0.09
3	0.02	0.13	0.06
4	0.02	0.11	0.05
5	0.02	0.10	0.05
6	0.01	0.08	0.04
7	0.01	0.07	0.03
8	0.01	0.06	0.03
9	0.01	0.05	0.03
Top	0.01	0.04	0.02

Although the proposed reforms may cause a small increase in electricity bills in the short term, by 2030 electricity bills are expected to be lower than they otherwise would be (in the absence of the reforms).

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the recommendations of the Committee on Climate Change on targets for greenhouse gas emissions in 2030, what account his Department is taking of the effect of long-term energy facilities including incinerators on the level of emissions arising from the UK grid in 2030. [32074]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* The Department is considering the recommendations of the Committee on Climate Change in its report on the Fourth Carbon Budget and will shortly be responding formally.

Heating: Equipment

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many new residential properties were built with ground source heat pumps in each year since 2005. [31400]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold information on the overall number of ground source heat pumps (GSHP) fitted to new-build residential properties. These works are carried out by private contractors who have no obligation to inform the Government.

Under the previous Government grant programme (low carbon buildings programme), the following shows the numbers of ground source heat pumps grants awarded for new-build residential properties between 2005 and 2009.

	GSHP					
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
Number of grants	0	0	10	98	148	256
Value of grants (£)	0	0	12,000	106,602	176,489	295,091

North East

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which Ministers in his Department have visited the North East since their appointment. [31738]

Gregory Barker: My hon. Friend the Minister of State (Charles Hendry) visited the North East in December 2010. This was part of a regional programme, which included visiting the Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station's control room training simulator site, meeting staff undergoing re-training.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Tamworth of 16 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 1039, on nuclear power stations, what the names are of each of his contacts around the City who have indicated that there certainly is an appetite to invest in new nuclear plant. [32540]

Charles Hendry: It would not be appropriate for the Department to provide names of individuals who have offered their views on this subject in a personal capacity. However, the fact that energy companies have announced plans to build up to 16 gigawatts (GW) of new nuclear in the UK demonstrates that they see a future for new nuclear generation in the UK and are willing to make significant investment to make this happen.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to his Department's consultation on revised funded decommissioning programme guidance for new nuclear power stations, if he will take steps to recover from *(a)* NNB GenCo, *(b)* Horizon Nuclear Power and *(c)* NuGeneration Ltd the expenditure from the public purse since 1973 on payments to (i) (A) the International Atomic Energy Agency and (B) Euratom and the Joint Research Centres for research on nuclear waste, (ii) NIREX and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for research and development on nuclear waste and (iii) the UK Atomic Energy Authority and British Nuclear Fuels for research, development, demonstration and deployment of technologies and materials used for nuclear waste management in proportion to the proposed use by those companies of the technological advances in nuclear waste management so funded from the public purse. [32569]

Charles Hendry: The UK has a legacy of nuclear waste from the UK's public sector nuclear programme which has accumulated over the last fifty years or which is already committed. The costs identified in this question have been incurred in relation to the management of this legacy waste. In line with the polluter pays principle, it is not appropriate for operators of new nuclear power stations to pay towards the historic costs of managing this legacy waste.

As set out in the "Consultation on revised Funded Decommissioning Programme (FDP) Guidance for New Nuclear Power Stations", published on 7 December

2010, the Government's objective is to ensure that operators of new nuclear power stations make prudent provision for their full share of the costs of safely and securely managing and disposing of their waste. The draft FDP Guidance and the "Consultation on an updated Waste Transfer Pricing Methodology for the disposal of higher activity waste from new nuclear power stations", also published on 7 December 2010, provide more detail on those costs for which a new build operator will be responsible. In summary, an operator's full share of waste management and disposal costs is considered to be: the cost of managing their waste pending disposal; the costs that are directly attributable to disposing of their waste in a geological disposal facility (GDF); a contribution towards the fixed costs of constructing a GDF; and an additional element or elements to reflect any financial risks being taken on by the Government in agreeing to title to and liability for the operator's waste.

Nuclear Power: Subsidies

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to his Department's consultation documents on electricity market reform published on 16 December 2010, which types of financial support or incentivisation he regards as subsidies to the nuclear industry; and what criteria he uses to decide whether a financial incentive is a subsidy. [32528]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State set out the Government's policy that there will be no subsidy for new nuclear power in a written statement on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 44WS.

This statement makes clear that:

> "there will be no levy, direct payment or market support for electricity supplied or capacity provided by a private sector new nuclear operator, unless similar support is also made available more widely to other types of generation. New nuclear power will, for example, benefit from any general measures that are in place or may be introduced as part of wider reform of the electricity market to encourage investment in low-carbon generation".

I can confirm that the position as described in the recently published consultation documentation on electricity market reform is consistent with this policy.

Offshore Industry: Safety

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to implementing the proposals in the European Commission Communication: Facing the challenge of the safety of offshore oil and gas activities, SEC(2010) 1193, with particular reference to section 3, page 10, that until complete results are available from the investigation into the causes of the Deepwater Horizon accident, additional caution should be applied both to ongoing exploration and to new operations and that where extreme climate, high pressure/high temperature reservoirs, deep water or particularly sensitive natural environments are involved, this would warrant extra care and a temporary suspension of future operations. [32572]

Charles Hendry: In the section to which the hon. Member refers, the European Commission asks member states to review all complex oil and gas exploration operations to ensure best practice is applied, while adopting a precautionary approach. The Communication text does not however state that

> "this would warrant extra care and a temporary suspension of future operations".

DECC and the Health and Safety Executive have already reviewed such complex operations, and ensure best practice is adopted. DECC/HSE will not allow any offshore operation to begin until they are assured that all risks have been assessed and appropriate controls are in place. DECC/HSE will inspect operations to ensure good practice is then followed, when it is not, it will take appropriate action, which can include stopping these operations.

Oil: North Sea

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department received from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in respect of the accident on 23 December 2009 involving an uncontrolled release of hydrocarbons from Sedco 711 oil recovery platform in the North Sea; what lessons have been learned about the vulnerabilities of flow control valves; and if he will place *(a)* in the Library and *(b)* on his Department's website a copy of the report on the accident made by Shell to the HSE. [32571]

Charles Hendry: In accordance with the legislative requirements, my Department and the Health and Safety Executive were formally notified of the incident involving the Sedco 711 on 23 December 2009. DECC's investigations confirmed that there was no likelihood of environmental damage from this incident.

I am advised that the Health and Safety Executive's investigation into this incident confirmed that flow control valves can fail and that such risks should be identified and mitigated within well-construction programmes. HSE will continue to monitor that such issues are addressed when it inspects well notifications and well-construction activities. I am advised that HSE did not request a copy of Shell's internal report on this incident.

Solar Power

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many new non-residential properties had solar panels included in their construction in each year since 2005. [31241]

Charles Hendry: The Department does not hold information on the overall number of new build non-residential properties constructed with solar panels. These works are carried out by private contractors who have no obligation to inform the Government.

Under the previous low carbon buildings programme, the following numbers of solar photovoltaic panels projects for new-build non-residential properties were supported between 2005 and 2009. Figures for 2010 are not yet available.

Number of grants

Non-residential	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Solar PV	0	0	1	36	91	n/a	128
Solar Thermal	0	0	0	14	33	n/a	47
Total	0	0	1	50	124	n/a	175

Value of grants (£)

Non-residential	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Solar PV	0	0	6,121	745,938	2,455,179	n/a	3,207,238
Solar Thermal	0	0	0	99,566	671,675	n/a	771,241
Total	0	0	6,121	845,504	3,126,854	n/a	3,978,479

Approximate capacity (KW)

Non-residential	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Solar PV KW	0	0	750	27,505	72,472	n/a	100,727
Solar Thermal KW	0	0	0	189	687	n/a	876
Total	0	0	750	27,694	73,159	0	101,603

Solar Power

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many solar panels were retro-fitted to existing properties in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008 and *(e)* 2009. [32400]

Charles Hendry: The Department does not hold information on the overall number of solar panels retro-fitted to existing buildings. These works are carried out by private contractors who have no obligation to inform the Government.

Under the previous Government grant programme (low carbon buildings programme), the following shows the numbers of solar photovoltaic and solar thermal grants awarded for existing properties between 2005 and 2009.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
Number of grants						
Solar Pv	0	87	528	767	1,549	2,931
Solar thermal	0	662	1,644	1,567	2,135	6,008
Total	0	749	2,172	2,334	3,684	8,939
Value of grants						
Solar Pv	0	613,676	3,597,323	4,771,713	8,579,290	17,562,002
Solar thermal	0	264,800	668,069	728,714	1,648,324	3,309,907
Total	0	878,476	4,265,392	5,500,427	10,227,614	20,871,909

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of residential properties which have solar panels. [32402]

Charles Hendry: The Department does not hold information on the proportion of residential properties which have solar panels. These works are carried out by private contractors who have no obligation to inform the Government.

The Government are currently supporting installation of solar photovoltaic panels through the Feed In-tariff (FIT). The number of domestic installations, as at 3 December 2010, accredited for FITs are as follows:

Technology	*Domestic installations*	*Domestic installations installed capacity (MW)*
Solar photovoltaic installations	15,101	37,685

Welsh language

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department last published a Welsh language scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Welsh Language Act 1993; and at which web addresses such schemes can be accessed in *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* English. [31163]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change is currently developing a Welsh Language Scheme in close cooperation with the Welsh Language Board. We expect to publicly consult on our draft scheme early in the new year. Following the consultation and the agreement of the Welsh Language Board, the scheme will be available on the DECC website in Welsh and English with an expected publication date this spring.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Learning: Finance

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what budgetary changes he expects to arise from implementation of his plans to reform adult community learning; and if he will make a statement. [27115]

Mr Hayes: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to PQs 2566, 2567 and 2574. As set out in 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth', published on 16 November

2010, the budget for informal adult and community learning will remain at £210 million for 2011-12 and the same indicative budget for 2012-13. It will continue to be a priority as we finalise the allocations for future years.

Apprentices: EC Countries

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has plans to identify best practice in respect of apprenticeship schemes in other European countries. [32603]

Mr Hayes: Important lessons can be learnt from the way apprenticeships are delivered in other countries in Europe and further afield. However, we must not make the mistake of assuming that we can simply replicate other national systems.

The Apprenticeship Ambassadors Network, supported by this Department, together with the London School of Economics, has recently published a report on the State of Apprenticeships in 2010, where international comparisons with many leading European countries, including Germany, France and Sweden, have been researched—this report is freely available at:

http://cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/special/cepsp22.pdf

BIS officials are currently working with organisations such as the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) and German Industry UK to explore what lessons might be learned from apprenticeships in other countries. The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) are also part of the International Network for Apprenticeship best practise (INAP) and contribute to and attend events designed to explore the differences between the English and continental apprenticeships systems. For example in January, NAS will be meeting with colleagues from Germany to look at comparisons in the retail and engineering sectors, and in February NAS are hosting a conference for apprenticeship experts from leading international countries.

More widely, Professor Alison Wolf is looking at the organisation of vocational education for young people, including apprentices, and its responsiveness to a changing labour market, this will take explicit account of good practice in a selection of developed economies such as France, Denmark and Germany.

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what grants have been awarded by his Department in 2010-11 to date; what grants he plans to award in each of the next two years; what the monetary value is of each such grant; and to which organisations such grants are made. [25038]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 18 November 2010]:* The Department does not keep a central record of grant awards and the collation of the information could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost. From 12 May 2010, grant payments and recipients have been published on the BIS website

http://www.bis.gov.uk/data/financial

Details of grant payments that will be made in the next two years will be published retrospectively. The Department is currently undertaking an internal allocation exercise to determine detailed allocations for 2011-12 and 2012-13 and does not yet have a forecast for grant payments for the next two financial years.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* steps he is taking to encourage small businesses to bid for contracts let by his Department and *(b)* recent guidance he has provided to small businesses on bidding for such contracts. [32029]

Mr Prisk: On 1 November the Minister for the Cabinet Office announced a package of measures to make government procurement easier for SMEs and voluntary sector organisations by simplifying the procurement process and making opportunities more accessible. These measures include (i) the introduction of a simpler standardised pre-qualification questionnaire across central Government from 1 December 2010, (ii) an investigation of red tape and the causes of delay in the procurement process and (iii) a free facility from March 2011 for small businesses to find public sector procurement, and subcontracting, opportunities in a single place online and free of charge—the "Contracts Finder" system.

Additionally, to support SMEs bidding for public sector contracts, raise their capability and work with public procures, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills provides a free online training course—'Winning the Contract'. Registration for this free course can be made at

www.learndirect-business.com

We are consulting further on facilitating small business access to public procurement. On 1 December 2010, the No. 10 website launched a forum on for SMEs to collect their views on public procurement.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with voluntary and community groups on bidding for contracts let by his Department. [32030]

Mr Prisk: This Department is supporting the Cabinet Office consultation with charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises consultation on how Government can create a level playing field for bidding for Government contracts. On 7 December 2010 the Cabinet Office published a Modernising Commissioning Green Paper. The consultation closed on 5 January 2011 and the results will feed into a Public Service Reform White Paper to be published shortly.

Additionally, BIS officials have been working with the Cabinet Office on a Civil Society Red Tape Taskforce, led by my noble Friend Lord Hodgson, which will be making recommendations as to how to reduce the bureaucratic burden on small organisations, particularly in the charitable, voluntary and social enterprise sectors. The taskforce will produce recommendations for Ministers in spring 2011.

Departmental Scientific Advisers

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills from which external *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations his Department has sought scientific advice since 1 August 2010. [32232]

Mr Willetts: We do not hold central records of requests for scientific advice. The Department aims to ensure the best available evidence informs its activity at all stages of policy development, implementation and review. Most day-to-day stakeholder engagement on specific policy areas is led by policy officials. The Department's Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Brian Collins, maintains strategic oversight of the scientific, engineering and technical evidence and advice that informs policy development and can help policy teams identify gaps and opportunities for engagement with individuals and organisations with relevant expertise. A central stakeholder engagement team is responsible for ensuring that BIS adopts a well co-ordinated approach to engaging with BIS stakeholders more generally.

As the Department responsible for the UK research base, promoting science and innovation, and fostering world-class universities, we receive advice from our delivery partners all the time, including Research Councils, the Technology Strategy Board and the Higher Education Funding Council for England. We also seek and receive advice from the national academies, a broad range of learned societies and from individuals within the academic community who have expertise relevant to the Department's activities.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure science and engineering evidence contribute to his Department's *(a)* strategy and *(b)* policy development. [32237]

Mr Willetts: BIS has a strong commitment to evidence-based policy making and aims to build a culture where science and engineering evidence and analysis are recognised as a vital part of an integrated approach to strategy, policy development and decision making.

The Department's chief scientific adviser (CSA), Professor Brian Collins, is responsible for ensuring that the Department's scientific and engineering activities are well directed and that policy development is informed by the best available evidence. This is achieved by working with heads of profession and heads of management units to ensure the Department has access to high quality, relevant science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) advice and expertise, and uses this to inform policy development and implementation. Where necessary the CSA will challenge the scientific and engineering content and quality of evidence and advice underpinning BIS policies.

The CSA is a member of the policy and programme board (the team of senior officials advising Ministers on major policy issues and programmes) and has regular discussions with senior colleagues to identify priority policy areas where he can have most impact. The CSA is currently exploring ways of capturing and better using the existing science and engineering skills and expertise of staff within the Department.

To ensure an integrated approach to analysis, the CSA works closely with the chief economist and other senior analysts. Science and engineering is included in the BIS research strategy alongside economic and social research.

EU Law

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what weight he gives to the views of *(a)* non-governmental organisations, *(b)* unions, *(c)* business and *(d)* other interested parties in consultations on EU regulations; and if he will make a statement. [32575]

Mr Prisk: When consulting on the transposition of EU directives in the UK, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills follows the Code of Practice on Consultation published by the Better Regulation Executive in July 2008.

Criterion 6 of the code—Responsiveness of consultation exercises—states:

> 6.1 All responses (both written responses and those fed through other channels such as discussion forums and public meetings) should be analysed carefully, using the expertise, experiences and views of respondents to develop more effective and efficient policy. The focus should be on the evidence given by consultees to back up their arguments. Analysing consultation responses is primarily a qualitative rather than a quantitative exercise.

The Code of Practice on Consultation can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file47158.pdf

Export Controls: USA

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the export of potassium chloride and pancuronium bromide by British companies for use in executions in the United States; and if he will make a statement. [32780]

Mr Prisk: The export of potassium chloride and pancuronium bromide is not currently subject to UK export controls. Following recent allegations that British companies may have supplied these drugs to the United States for use in executions, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, is currently considering the merits of imposing a form of export control in relation to these drugs.

The UK opposes the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. The Government will continue to raise the death penalty with the United States at all appropriate opportunities.

Government Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time equivalent staff are employed in the office of the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government. [32234]

Mr Willetts: The Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Sir John Beddington, is supported by the Government Office for Science (GO-Science), a semi-autonomous unit housed within BIS.

At December 2010, 72.3 full-time equivalent staff were working in GO-Science.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has allocated to the office of the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government in each of the last three years. [32236]

Mr Willetts: The Government chief scientific adviser, Professor Sir John Beddington, is supported by the Government Office for Science, a semi-autonomous unit housed within BIS and funded from the BIS vote.

The amount allocated to GO-Science for administration costs in the financial year 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 were £5,261,000, £5,591,000 and £4,811,000 respectively.

The amount allocated for programme costs in the same years were £2,800,000, £2,900,000 and £2,800,000 respectively.

Innovation Centres: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the annual running costs of innovation centres supported by regional development agencies were in each of the last three years. [31521]

Mr Willetts: The regional development agencies (RDAs) do not hold the information being requested. This information is not readily available and would require contacting third parties, many of which would be private sector, to obtain the running cost details. Therefore, the RDAs are not in a position to provide a response as to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £800.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding was given to each innovation centre supported by regional development agencies in each of the last five years. [31522]

Mr Willetts: The following table provides the total capital spend on innovation for each RDA over the last five financial years and includes both Single Programme and European regional development fund (ERDF) funding.

RDA	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
AWM	8,445,567	4,728,259	8,337,956	7,549,425	13,857,583
EEDA	20,708,000	10,605,000	7,670,000	11,621,000	11,439,000
EMDA	9,015,000	10,578,000	15,674,000	6,800,000	8,246,000
LDA	4,667,898	2,516,684	3,200,000	2,936,928	165,000
NWDA	7,977,452	15,187,542	9,285,543	11,988,715	6,848,070
ONE	27,164,392	20,726,236	17,311,528	6,787,850	[1]30,211,146
SEEDA	4,771,214	1,931,468	2,574,603	4,672,026	3,710,901
SWRDA	1,366,214	7,286,955	9,125,466	10,841,013	24,396,064
YF	26,503,032	16,322,065	27,325,790	14,098,532	6,263,266

[1] Includes funding from Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) totalling £10,361,368.

Ofcom

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in respect of which consultations conducted by Ofcom deadline extensions were granted to some parties. [31961]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* Ofcom does not hold this information centrally, and it could be produced only at disproportionate cost. Ofcom have indicated that they would be prepared to discuss this matter with my hon. Friend directly.

Ofcom: Opinion Leader Research

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely total cost to his Department of Opinion Leader research's review of relay services on behalf of Ofcom. [31556]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The Opinion Leader research is funded by Ofcom. There is no direct cost to either the Department for Business Innovation and Skills or the Department for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for this work.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much Ofcom expects to pay Opinion Leader research for the conduct of the second consultation to be launched in March 2011 undertaken as part of the review of relay services. [31933]

Mr Vaizey: This is an operational matter for Ofcom.

Ofcom: Text Relay Services

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he expects the review of text relay services by Ofcom to be linked to the implementation by his Department of the revised EU electronic communications framework. [31769]

Mr Vaizey: This Department has recently undertaken a substantial consultation exercise on implementing revisions to the EU's Electronic Communications Framework. The deadline for implementation is 25 May 2011. We are also working very closely with the regulator, Ofcom, on implementation of the necessary revisions, some of which will be achieved through changes to Ofcom's General Conditions.

Among those changes mandated by Europe is a requirement that member states enable national regulators to ensure that disabled end-users have access to electronic communications services equivalent to that enjoyed by the majority of users. This extends an existing reference to equivalence in the Universal Service Order, and we intend to implement this provision through a change to Ofcom's general conditions.

This change will enable Ofcom to further consider issues of equivalence, but such consideration would need to be subject to research, cost benefit analysis, a proportionality test and a public consultation.

STEM Assurance Scheme

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his future plans are for the STEM Assurance Scheme. [32235]

Mr Willetts: The STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Assurance Scheme is designed to encourage early engagement by policy teams with STEM issues, both in terms of the evidence they may call upon and also the technical assumptions upon which implementation of the policy depends. The scheme is light touch and overseen by the Department's Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA), Professor Brian Collins. The scheme has been piloted during 2009-10 and is now being rolled out across the Department. All BIS policies are examined carefully and if they have a STEM content they will be subject to scrutiny under the scheme either by the CSA and internal experts through local assurance panels or by calling in external expertise.

Policy makers in BIS have welcomed the scheme as ensuring that policies to stimulate the UK economy are underpinned by robust scientific, technological and engineering evidence.

Students: Finance

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on its ability to set its own income threshold for Scottish students borrowing with the Student Loan Company. [32482]

Mr Willetts: I have had a recent discussion with the Scottish Government and another is planned for the new year on income thresholds.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the variations in the real interest rate to be charged on student loans for graduates earning between £21,000 and £41,000 will be following the implementation of his proposed reform of student finance; and if he will make a statement. [32591]

Mr Willetts: The interest rate will be graduated, starting at the retail prices index for those earning £21,000 up to a maximum of RPI + 3% for those earning £41,000 and above. The formula for the graduation of interest rates is being developed and will be announced in due course.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what responsibility *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Student Loans Company will have for (i) applying the annual uprated earnings threshold and (ii) calculating the repayments to be made by graduates following the implementation of his proposed reform of student finance; and if he will make a statement. [32592]

Mr Willetts: Working together with my Department, HMRC will amend the threshold to reflect the annual increase and the subsequent calculation under PAYE for employers to make the correct student loan deduction. The Student Loans Company will be notified of the deductions and use this information to update borrowers accounts, apply interest and produce statements.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of mature students graduating in each year of the comprehensive spending review period who will never repay the full value of loans taken out *(a)* under the existing system for student finance and *(b)* under his proposed reform of student finance; and if he will make a statement. [32593]

Mr Willetts: A student beginning a regular three-year degree in 2012-13 on the new system will graduate in June 2015 which is after the end of the current spending review period so there will not be a cohort of students on the new system who will graduate during the current spending review.

For current system students we estimate that around a third of mature students studying full-time will have some of their loan written off. Our estimate for the whole full-time population is around 15%.

For students under the new system, we estimate that around two thirds of mature students studying full-time will have some of their loan written off. Our estimate for the whole full-time population is between 50% and 60%.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the likely change in the average level of household debt attributable to the implementation of his proposed reform of student finance in the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [32594]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not hold this information. The proposed reform of student finance ensures that no student will face up-front costs for higher education tuition. All full-time students will continue to be eligible, and all part-time students studying at a minimum intensity of 25% will become eligible for loans to cover costs of tuition. Graduates will benefit from a more progressive repayment structure in the proposed reforms, including that they will not have to start repaying until they are earning £21,000.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of students who enter higher education of a tuition fee of *(a)* £7,000, *(b)* £8,000 and *(c)* £9,000 per annum; and what estimate he has made of the effect on the public purse of the implementation of such fees. [32595]

Mr Willetts: The Department commissioned research from the Institute of Fiscal Studies to support the Browne Review which explored how changes in fees, grants and loans impact on participation. That research, which analysed the 2006-07 HE finance reforms on HE participation indicated that participation would tend to be lower with higher fees (by 4.4 percentage points for an increase in £1,000) but that this was offset by increases in loans and grants package (3.2ppt and 2.1ppt increases).

The underlying cost to government of student support loans was taken into account in the Department's spending review settlement, announced in October 2010.

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of higher fees on the duration of university courses which currently last four years. [32775]

Mr Willetts: The duration of university courses is a matter for institutions taking into account the complexity and content of the subjects delivered and demand from students. The new funding regime is designed to move from a situation where the bulk of funding is via direct grants to one based on the informed choices of students. Students will want to take into account course length and content, the quality of their experience at university and their employment prospects on graduation in deciding which courses to apply for, in addition to the fees being charged. Students will benefit from a fairer and more progressive system of graduate contributions and so we do not expect a particular impact on four year courses where there is a clear rationale for the length of study. Overall, however, we would expect innovative approaches to teaching, such as compressed degrees.

Students: Loans

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with the Student Loans Company on excess repayments. [32179]

Mr Willetts: I meet regularly with the Student Loans Company (SLC) to discuss a range of issues.

Since December 2009, in order to reduce the number of those who over-repay, borrowers nearing the end of their loan repayment term are notified by the SLC that they may opt out of the PAYE system, and complete their loan repayments by direct debit. Additionally, borrowers are advised to monitor their own repayments so they can calculate when they are likely to repay their loan in full.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students are waiting for overdue loan payments to be made; and if he will make a statement. [32266]

Mr Willetts: By the start of term, the Student Loans Company (SLC) had paid 99.3% of all eligible applications that had been received with the right documentation before the relevant applications deadlines, the last of which was at the end of June 2010.

By 14 October 2010, the latest date for which official figures are available, the SLC had prepared for payment 606,000 applications for financial support from new and continuing students in England for the academic year 2010/11. The following table provides details of the payment status of these applications at 14 October 2010.

Status	*Number of applications for academic year 2010/11*
Applications prepared for payment:	606,000
of which first payment made;	521,000
of which no payment due as there is no maintenance support entitlement (for example, if only tuition fee support had been applied for as this is paid directly to the university or college);	44,000
of which no payment due as confirmation of attendance from the institution had not yet been received;	35,000
of which attendance confirmed and first payment will be made at term start date or is currently being processed through the banking system;	6,000
of which attendance confirmed but first payment withheld, for example while bank details were confirmed or National Insurance Number was validated before payment could be released.	10,000

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what average period elapsed between the end of the financial year and the issue by the Student Loans Company of loan statements to its customers in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [32307]

Mr Willetts: The average time taken by the Student Loans Company (SLC) to issue loan account statements to customers in 2008, 2009 and 2010 is provided in the following table. Statements for the current tax year will be issued after April 2011.

The SLC issues loans account statements once it has received repayment information from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). HMRC in turn receive the relevant repayment information from employers when they submit their annual tax returns. The earliest that the company will receive repayment information on loan accounts is in May following the end of a tax year, with the bulk of repayment files received between May and September.

	Average time taken to issue loan account statements to customers
2008 (in respect of the 2007/08 tax year)	4.2 months
2009 (in respect of the 2008/09 tax year)	4.1 months
2010 (in respect of the 2009/10 tax year)	2 months

Telecommunications: Hearing Impairment

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure that his policy on the provision of telecommunications services to British Sign Language users takes full account of emerging technologies; and if he will make a statement. [31946]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* Government are working with industry and the third sector through the eAccessibility forum to produce and implement an eAccessibility action plan that will address the issues faced by those suffering hearing loss when trying to use or access digital equipment and services so that they can partake fully in the UK digital economy.

The forum will also investigate issues around inclusive design—making sure businesses improve their design of products and services to include everyone. It will also investigate issues around assistive technologies, making sure people can identify what is available on the market at a reasonable cost. In addition, the forum will consider creating a one stop shop for accessible information.

A copy of the plan can be found at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/news/speeches/ed-vaizey-e-accessibility-action-plan

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to implement its obligations arising from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in respect of *(a)* Article 24 on Education, *(b)* Article 27 on Work and Employment and *(c)* other articles of that Convention. [32038]

Mr Hayes: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) overall mission is to build a dynamic and competitive UK economy by creating the conditions for business success; promoting innovation, enterprise and science; and giving everyone the skills and opportunities to succeed. The work of BIS must reflect this. We are therefore wholly committed to the obligations set out within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to improving outcomes for disabled people.

BIS will contribute to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Report in 2011, setting out what the Department is doing to meet our obligations and how implementation is being achieved.

A number of strategies and programmes already exist and/or are being taken forward by BIS which serve to support the various rights and freedoms set out in the numerous Convention Articles, examples from across our sectors include:

The Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11 sets out how we will continue to support provision which meets particular equality needs—for example investing in further education and skills training for learners with difficulties and/or disabilities remains a priority, and in the UK we have a continuing commitment to be inclusive and equitable by maintaining opportunities for all learners.

Next Step provides a universal offer of information and advice about learning, work and careers for all those in and out of employment in England. It has been fully operational from August 2010. Next Step provides targeted support—by phone, online or face-to-face—to those with specific barriers to getting into and on in work, including overcoming wider obstacles to progress, such as employment rights, health, transport, personal finance issues, child care and financial support for learners. BIS is ensuring that the service is well placed to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities, and specialist support is available to help people with the full range of disabilities.

Work is ongoing to implement the Diversity in Apprenticeships pilots with the Department for Education to increase the critical mass of learners in non-traditional occupations.

In England, disabled students in higher education (HE) are supported by the Government via the institution they attend and individually through disabled students' allowances which are available to help students in HE with the extra costs they may incur on their course because of a disability (including an ongoing health condition, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia).

BIS is helping businesses and individuals to prepare for and deliver a successful 2012 games, so that as a result of the games there are businesses better able to deliver other major sporting, cultural and entertainment events. Further to encourage businesses to become more accessible the BIS and the UK Office for Disability Issues commissioned a report "2012 Legacy for Disabled People: Inclusive and Accessible Business" setting out the opportunities that disabled customers bring. The initiative focused on improving the way businesses engage with disabled customers.

As part of its work to promote STEM careers, the BIS and Department for Education funded STEMNET works to ensure equality of access for all, including those covered by disability legislation. While the duty to ensure wide access falls principally to schools, STEM ambassadors and others design and support activities and enrichment material in a way that allows young disabled people to fully appreciate how science can be a part of their lives and careers.

The work of BIS is also supported by a programme on implementing the requirements and provisions in the most recent equality legislation in the UK, the Equality Act 2010.

More detailed information about BIS and its contribution to supporting the rights and freedoms of people with disabilities will be available in the UK Report to the UN Disability Committee when it is published in the summer of 2011, co-ordinated by the Office for Disability Issues.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Society Groups

Mr Offord: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance he plans to provide to civil society groups who wish to engage with the Government's proposals to increase the participation of civil society in public service provision. [31542]

Mr Hurd: The Government have just published a Green Paper, "Modernising Commissioning: Increasing the role of charities, social enterprises, mutuals and cooperatives in public service delivery", which seeks comments, by 5 January 2011, from civil society organisations on how the commissioning process for public services can be improved. Feedback from this consultation will inform both the wider Public Services Reform White Paper, to be published early in the new year, and our plans for whether more guidance to civil society groups is required.

Constituencies

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information he has received from local authorities in each parliamentary constituency on the size of the electorate for parliamentary elections recorded on the registers submitted to his Department on 1 December 2010. [32797]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what information I have received from local authorities in each parliamentary constituency on the size of the electorate for parliamentary elections recorded on the registers submitted to the Department on 1 December 2010 (32797).

ONS have received information from approximately 75 per cent of local authorities in England and Wales on the number of people within parliamentary constituencies who are registered to vote in parliamentary elections. The data refer to the number of people who would have been entitled to vote if an election had been held on 1 Dec 2010 and is based on the qualifying date of 15 October 2010. The data include information on the number of people registered to vote who were:

1) resident within the parliamentary constituency on the qualifying date.

2) service voters.

3) crown servants.

4) voluntary patients.

5) overseas electors, and

6) had no permanent address.

The data also include the number of registered people who will attain the age of 18 during the currency of the register, and who are entitled to vote at an election on or after their eighteenth birthday.

ONS intend to publish electoral statistics for December 2010, for all parliamentary constituencies, on 23 February 2011.

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff employed by the Prime Minister's Office were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [31214]

Mr Hurd: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. Staff employed by the Cabinet Office on London pay bands are paid at a rate above the London living wage.

Details of Cabinet Office pay bands are published in the Cabinet Office organogram at the following address:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Cabinet-Office_0.pdf

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff employed by his Department were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [31233]

Mr Hurd: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. Staff employed by the Cabinet Office on London pay bands are paid at a rate above the London living wage.

Details of Cabinet Office pay bands are published in the Cabinet Office organogram at the following address:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Cabinet-Office_0.pdf

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions the Cabinet Office has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings the Cabinet Office was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions the Cabinet Office has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31963]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office press office, which supports the Minister for the Cabinet Office, does not keep records of the number of embargoed briefings.

The Cabinet Office follows the ministerial code and ensures all important policy announcements are made in the House, not the media.

Departmental Procurement

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps (*a*) his Department, (*b*) its agencies and (*c*) the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have taken to comply with the Guidance of the Office of Government Commerce on promoting skills through public procurement issued in 2009. [31325]

Mr Maude: The primary purpose of Government procurement is to buy the goods and services the Government needs in a way that achieves the best value for money.

Decisions on the inclusion of skills and apprenticeships requirements in procurement have to be taken on a case-by-case basis, driven by the imperative of optimising value for money.

Within the Cabinet Office family, the principles set out in the guidance, "Promoting skills through public procurement" have been applied to the Buying Solutions Facilities Management framework and the Cabinet Office pan-government framework agreements for grant fund management services.

Departmental Sponsorship

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what expenditure (*a*) his Department and (*b*) its non-departmental public bodies incurred on sponsorship in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [27513]

Mr Hurd: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

Electronic Government

Simon Kirby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to ensure that electronic and postal contact information for (*a*) Government Departments and (*b*) Ministers is easily accessible on Government websites. [28815]

Mr Hurd: Departments and other public bodies determine what information they publish, including that of contact details for their Ministers.

Electronic, postal, and telephone contact information for Ministers and their Departments is published on the Cabinet Office website in the List of Ministerial Responsibilities:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/lmr100701.pdf

Directgov includes a directory:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Dl1/Directories/A-ZOfCentralGovernment/index.htm that contains information about central Government Departments, executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies including electronic and postal contact information.

Government Departments: Work Experience

Mr Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many internship opportunities for black, Asian and minority ethnic applicants have been *(a)* advertised and *(b)* undertaken in each central government department in the last 12 months. [29846]

Mr Maude: The Fast Stream Summer Development Programme for ethnic minorities offers internships to black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) applicants. The programme does not specify the number of opportunities. Internships undertaken through this programme in the last 12 months are listed as follows:

Department	*Number*
Cabinet Office	2
Communities and Local Government	8
Crown Prosecution Service	2
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	3
Department for Education	5
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	3
Department for Transport	7
Department for Work and Pensions	8
Department of Health	1
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	5
HM Treasury	6
Home Office	21
House of Commons	1
Ministry of Defence	3
Ministry of Justice	4
Scottish Executive	1
Welsh Assembly	1
Total	81

In addition, the Home Office, DWP, BIS and the Welsh Assembly Government have offered internships to people from BAME backgrounds in the last 12 months through the Windsor Fellowship—a leadership programme for ethnic minority undergraduates. There are currently 16 interns across government.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office runs a Partner University Placement Scheme (PUPS) which attracts high calibre students who are either female, from a BAME background or receiving the full maintenance grant. In the past 12 months, five students from a BAME background took up a place on the programme from 19 vacancies.

The above schemes are all paid internships.

Managed Move Policy

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's policy manual containing the managed move policy applied to its human resource activities; and if he will make a statement. [30903]

Mr Hurd *[holding answer 14 December 2010]:* The Cabinet Office managed move policy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Tottenham

Mr Lammy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the claimant *(a)* count and *(b)* rate is in (i) Tottenham constituency and (ii) the Northumberland Park Ward. [32045]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the claimant (a) count and (b) rate is in (i) Tottenham constituency and (ii) the Northumberland Park Ward. (32045)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

The number of claimants of JSA in the Tottenham constituency in November 2010 was 6,038 which represented 7.7% of the population aged 16-64 years. The number of claimants of JSA in the Northumberland Park Ward in November 2010 was 971 which represented 11.0% of the population aged 16-64 years.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Legal Services Commission: Procurement

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance documents were provided by the Office of Government Commerce to the Legal Services Commission in respect of its 2010 tenders in 2008-09; and *(a)* when and *(b)* by what means each document was provided. [32093]

Mr Hurd: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Huntingdon (Mr Djanogly) of 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 667W. LSC did not seek or receive specific guidance from OGC.

Advice on public sector procurement is available on the internet which can be used by any Government Department at:

www.ogc.gov.uk/

and

www.buyingsolutions.gov.uk

North East England

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which Ministers of his Department have visited the North East since their appointment; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose was of each such visit. [31791]

Mr Maude: No Cabinet Office Ministers have visited the north-east since their appointment.

Poverty: Children

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of children in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley who live in a workless household. [32461]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many children were living in workless households in a) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and b) the London borough of Bexley. 32461.

The requested information is not available. Due to the specific detail of the request, it is not possible to provide estimates for either the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency or the London borough of Bexley because of insufficient sample sizes.

Private Sector: Conditions of Employment

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether employees transferring from the public to the private or voluntary sectors will be covered by TUPE regulations after the removal of the two-tier code. [31902]

Mr Hurd *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* Withdrawal of the two-tier code does not impact on or change existing TUPE regulations and therefore employees who are subject to TUPE regulations will continue to be covered by TUPE regulations.

Public Sector: Procurement

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 143W, on public sector procurement, what plans the Office of Government Commerce has to monitor compliance with its 2009 guidance on promoting skills through public procurement; and what mechanisms it has in place to do so. [26969]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* The primary purpose of government procurement is to buy the goods and services the Government need in a way that achieves the best value for money.

Decisions on the inclusion of skills and apprenticeships requirements in procurement have to be taken on a case-by-case basis, driven by the imperative of optimising value for money.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he evaluated the experience of summer camps in other countries in developing his proposals for a national citizenship service. [31812]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office and Department for Education have considered international comparisons in developing the National Citizen Service pilots and have analysed evidence of challenges and success factors in running youth development programmes with a community focus in a number of other countries.

Winter Resilience Network

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the remit is of the winter resilience network; who the members are of that network; when that network was established; and if he will make a statement. [32151]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* The winter resilience network comprises those central Government Departments, the devolved Administrations and local partners responsible for anticipating and managing the various impacts of winter weather. Its role is to monitor, address and share information regarding winter preparedness, as well as to ensure a co-ordinated response to challenges as they arise. Partners have been in regular contact throughout the summer to address issues arising from last winter's disruption, and have been meeting regularly at both ministerial and official level to address issues arising from the recent severe weather and to identify potential challenges ahead.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks and Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his policy is on the involvement of service users in commissioning services to treat *(a)* alcoholism and *(b)* drug addiction; [32108]

(2) whether he plans to involve local communities in the *(a)* design and *(b)* provision of (i) prevention and (ii) treatment services for (A) alcoholism and (B) drug addiction; [32110]

(3) what steps he is taking to reform the system of commissioning for *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug addiction treatment services; and how he plans to (i) increase efficiency, (ii) create savings to the public purse and (iii) reduce the level of administrative burdens through the local commissioning of such services. [32111]

Anne Milton: "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health" sets out our vision for the future of commissioning of drug and alcohol services which we propose will be funded from the new public health budget and commissioned by local authorities as part of their new public health role.

In addition, the "Drug Strategy 2010, Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery: Supporting People to live a drug free life" sets out how treatment services will be commissioned locally to take account of the needs of communities, with local directors of public health and directors of children's services taking a key role. This would include any local engagement of service users.

The drug strategy also sets out plans to test new approaches by introducing six pilots to explore how payment by results can work for drugs recovery for adults. Separately, work is being undertaken to pilot a payment by results approach for alcohol treatment.

Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role he expects Public Health England to play in raising awareness of the health implications of *(a)* alcoholism and *(b)* drug addiction in local communities. [32109]

Anne Milton: "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health" sets out our vision for the future of commissioning of drug and alcohol services which we propose will be funded from the new public health budget and commissioned by local authorities as part of their new public health role. This includes delivering appropriate prevention interventions and commissioning treatment services for those who need it to get help to recover.

A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

Animal Products: Clones

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on proposals made by the European Commission on a moratorium on the cloning of animals for food production; and what advice he has received from the Food Standards Agency on the matter. [29647]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

Following consideration by interested Government Departments and advice from the Food Standards Agency, the Government consider that a ban or a temporary suspension on cloning, the use of clones and the marketing of food from clones is disproportionate in terms of food safety and animal welfare. Insufficient evidence has been provided to justify a ban and any ban would require an impact assessment that demonstrated the need for and benefit of new regulation.

Blood: Hepatitis

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 173W, on blood: hepatitis, on what date the review of payments for compensation will be *(a)* completed and *(b)* announced to the House. [32082]

Anne Milton: I refer the right hon. Member to my written ministerial statement given on 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 166WS.

Departmental Publicity

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on which initiatives of his Department and its agencies expenditure on advertising has been incurred in each of the last five years; how much was spent on advertising in respect of each such initiative; and how much his Department and its agencies plan to spend on advertising in respect of which initiatives in 2010-11. [32596]

Mr Simon Burns: The following tables show the Department's advertising expenditure carried out through the Communications Directorate over each of the last five financial years by initiative.[1]

A total budget figure for the 2010-11 financial year cannot be provided at this stage as detailed planning for some campaigns is under way and advertising media allocations have not yet been finalised.

Departmental advertising spend 2005-06 to 2008-09

Campaign	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£ million* *2008-09*
Alcohol (from 06-07 departmental contribution to campaign run jointly with Home Office)	0.00	0.56	0.61	4.77
Antibiotics	0.38	0.00	0.39	1.15
Change4Life	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.69
Drugs (departmental contribution to campaign run jointly with Home Office)	0.18	1.34	0.67	1.45
Flu (Immunisation)	1.83	1.11	0.98	1.42
Hepatitis C	0.00	0.52	1.34	1.30
HPV Vaccination	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.80
Immunisation	0.00	1.66	0.00	0.32
National health service including nurse recruitment	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
NHS Injury Benefits Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00
NHS Choices	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.55
Patient Choice	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53
Respiratory and hand hygiene	0.00	0.00	0.32	1.53
Sexual health/teenage pregnancy	0.00	2.88	3.11	2.83
Social care/worker recruitment	2.42	2.31	2.22	2.03
Smoking—tobacco control	20.80	13.17	10.79	23.38
Stroke	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.52
Tobacco legislation	0.00	0.32	5.38	0.00
Winter (Get the right treatment/ask about medicines day)	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.00
5 a Day	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00
EIII/EHIC	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.16
Department's outdoor campaign	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	27.47	23.92	26.24	56.43

Departmental advertising spend 2009-10

Campaign	*£ million*
Tobacco	14.60
Change4Life	9.20
Life Check	2.28
Alcohol	3.25
Pandemic flu	7.24
Seasonal flu immunisation	0.17
HPV vaccine	3.73
Sexual health awareness	0.99
Social care recruitment	2.99
MMR uptake campaign	0.24
Respiratory and hand hygiene campaign	2.63
Hepatitis C	1.04
Stroke	2.24
Sexual health/teenage pregnancy	6.68
National dementia strategy	1.58
FRANK	1.42
Totals	60.28

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has also carried out advertising over the past five years. Spend by year can be found in the following table.

MHRA advertising spend 2006-10

	£
2006	13,999.8
2007	3,026.06
2008	2,608.96
2009	0
2010	0
Total	19,634.82

[1] Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, COI commission and VAT). All figures exclude advertising rebates and audit adjustments and therefore may differ from COI official turnover figures. All figures are rounded to the nearest £10,000. These figures do not include departmental recruitment/classified advertising costs and ad hoc spend under £10,000. These figures may include occasional minor spend through COI by NHS organisations to supplement national campaigns in their area. While this expenditure has been excluded as far as possible so that this chart reflects central departmental spend, it would incur disproportionate cost to validate that every item of NHS expenditure has been removed.

General Practitioners: Newcastle upon Tyne

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has issued guidance to Newcastle Bridges GP commissioning consortium on *(a)* the desirability and frequency of executive management meetings and *(b)* whether such meetings should be held in public; [32186]

(2) whether his Department has issued guidance to County Durham and Darlington Federation Pathfinder on *(a)* the frequency of executive management meetings and *(b)* whether such meetings should be held in public. [32310]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not issued guidance to any pathfinders.

Health Visitors: Recruitment

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS bodies will employ health visitors following implementation of his proposals to replace primary care trusts. [32590]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the proposals set out in 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England', and in related consultations, responsibility for health visiting provision should pass to Public Health England budget. In due course, we see health visiting being commissioned locally as part of the health improvement responsibilities that will pass to local authorities.

The Department's Transforming Community Services Programme is working closely with strategic health authorities to ensure that primary care trusts separate commissioning of services from provision by April 2011 as smoothly and as effectively as possible.

Where health visitors are employed will vary according to the new range of provider organisations.

Hydrotherapy

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS hydrotherapy pools were *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each primary care trust in each of the last five years; [32489]

(2) how many NHS hydrotherapy pools are available to patients in each primary care trust; [32490]

(3) whether he has made a recent assessment of the adequacy of the number of NHS hydrotherapy pools. [32506]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect data centrally on the number of hydrotherapy treatment pools available in each primary care trust in England. National health service organisations will decide locally on the provision of hydrotherapy pools based on the clinical needs of their patients.

NHS

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to encourage new providers to bid for community contracts as part of the reforms proposed in the public health White Paper. [32466]

Mr Simon Burns: On 21 December 2010 we published a consultation to accompany the recent White Paper on public health, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People". The consultation, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health", asks specifically what can be done to ensure the widest possible range of providers are supported to play a full part in providing health and wellbeing services. We plan to publish a response to the consultation in 2011.

Localism will be at the heart of the new public health system, with devolved responsibilities, freedoms and funding, subject to parliamentary approval of the forthcoming Health and Social Care Bill. Local authorities will have use of a ring-fenced grant to fund their new public health responsibilities. We expect that the majority of services will be commissioned, given the opportunities this would bring to engage local communities more widely in the provision of public health, and to deliver best value and best results. We would encourage and expect that local authorities, where possible and appropriate, should be commissioning on an any willing provider/competitive tender basis. It is also expected that local people will have access to information about commissioning decisions, how public health money has been spent and the outcomes that have been achieved.

NHS Commissioning Board

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on the monitoring arrangements for the NHS Commissioning Board. [32468]

Mr Simon Burns: No discussions have taken place. An annual mandate will be agreed between the Secretary of State and the NHS Commissioning Board. It will include objectives and levels of improvement for quality, outcomes and reducing inequalities as well as financial allocations to the NHS Commissioning Board.

NHS: Negligence

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations his Department has received on the introduction of a legal duty of candour in healthcare. [32852]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has received a number of representations on the subject including those from Action against Medical Accidents and the Medical Protection Society.

North East Strategic Health Authority: Accident and Emergency Departments

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* middle grade doctors and *(b)* middle grade doctor vacancies there were in each accident and emergency department in the North East Strategic Health Authority area. [32511]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the numbers of medical staff in the accident and emergency (A&E) specialty by trust in the North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area is available from the "NHS Information Centre for health and social care: Medical and Dental Workforce Census". This information has been placed in the Library.

Information on the vacancy rates and numbers for all consultants in the A&E specialty by trust in the North East SHA area is available from the "NHS Information Centre for health and social care Vacancies Survey of March 2010". This information has been placed in the Library.

Pain: Health Services

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to publish guidance for healthcare professionals on the chronic pain pathway; and if he will make a statement. [32370]

Paul Burstow: The Department has no plans to publish guidance for healthcare professionals on the chronic pain pathway. We understand that the British Pain Society has set up a working group to draw up guidelines for health care professionals on chronic pain pathways, drawing on guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and other evidence-based guidelines. In addition, the Department has asked NICE to consider the development of a quality standard on pain relief.

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* general practitioners, *(b)* pain specialists and *(c)* patients on dealing with chronic pain. [32371]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not issued guidance specifically for general practitioners, pain specialists or patients on dealing with chronic pain, although it published a summary care pathway in July 2008 to help commissioners to develop appropriate integrated services, and has funded the distribution of a "pain toolkit" written to help people who live with persistent pain.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published guidance on various aspects of chronic pain, including clinical guidelines on the early treatment of non-specific chronic back pain and on the pharmacological management of neuropathic pain.

Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Review

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the independent report commissioned into the dismissal of the chief executive of the Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust; and what proportion of such costs were attributable to the redrafting of the report; [32889]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each draft submitted to him of the independent report on the dismissal of the chief executive of the Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust; [32890]

(3) when he plans to publish the independent report he commissioned into the dismissal of the chief executive of the Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust. [32891]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department estimates that the cost to the Department of the independent report commissioned into the dismissal of the chief executive of the Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust will be £66,331.

There has been no significant redrafting of the report, and therefore no costs associated with it. The Department only holds a copy of the final report.

The final report was published on 4 January 2011 and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_123218

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Social Services: Cornwall

Sarah Newton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the funding made available to assist the NHS and local authority social services departments to integrate their services has been allocated to *(a)* Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust and *(b)* Cornwall Council for each of the next four years. [31997]

Paul Burstow: The following table shows the total amount of money made available within health for spend on social care that also benefits health for the next four years.

	Additional funds from health (£ billion)
2011-12	0.8
2012-13	0.9
2013-14	1.1
2014-15	1.0

For the first two years, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust (PCT) will receive £7.760 million and £7.485 million respectively. Of this, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT will transfer £7.727 million in year one and £7.448 million in year two to Cornwall council for spend on social care services that also benefit health. The remaining balance of £0.033 million and £0.037 million respectively will go to the Isles of Scilly local authority for spend on social care that also benefits health.

The 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework sets out how this funding should be managed:

> PCTs will need to transfer this funding to local authorities to invest in social care services to benefit health, and to improve overall health gain. Transfers will need to be made via an agreement under section 256 of the 2006 NHS Act.
>
> PCTs need to work together with local authorities to agree jointly on appropriate areas for social care investment, and the outcomes expected from this investment. This could include current services such as telecare, community directed prevention (including falls prevention), community equipment and adaptations, and crisis response services. The Department would expect these decisions to take into account the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for their local population, and the existing commissioning plans for both health and social care. PCTs should work with local authorities to achieve these outcomes in a transparent and efficient manner, with local authorities keeping PCTs informed of progress using appropriate local mechanisms.

Additionally the Government have recently set out their vision for adult social care: "Capable communities and active citizens" and updated its carers' strategy, "Recognised, valued and supported: Next steps for the Carers Strategy", which should be taken into account when agreeing local investment plans.

More information will be available for 2013-14 and 2014-15 in due course.

Strokes

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has for funding *(a)* the National Sentinel Stroke Audit and *(b)* the Stroke Improvement National Audit Programme after 2010-11; [32368]

(2) what funding the Cabinet Office Efficiency and Reform Group has approved for a further wave of the Act FAST stroke awareness campaign in 2011. [32369]

Mr Simon Burns: The contract and associated funding for the National Sentinel Stroke Audit runs until 3 March 2012 and for the Stroke Improvement National Audit Programme until 31 March 2011. Consideration is being given to the synergies between these two audits and the opportunities for developing a single stroke audit.

The Cabinet Office Efficiency and Reform Group has agreed to an exemption request for the Act FAST, stroke awareness campaign. This approval is for spend of £743,000 to cover television advertising, marketing and evaluation.

Tuberculosis

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what public awareness campaigns his Department is running to warn at-risk groups of the *(a)* dangers and *(b)* symptoms of tuberculosis. [32395]

Anne Milton: The Department is not running public awareness campaigns on tuberculosis (TB). However, the Department has provided grant funding to TB Alert, a United Kingdom charity, to work with at-risk groups, to encourage prompt referral for TB testing and treatment. This work includes building the capacity of a range of third sector organisations to raise awareness of tuberculosis with their local communities.

JUSTICE

Coroners: Legal Costs

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the annual cost of legal representation was of the Government at completed inquests into all cases where the Government was represented in each financial year since 2007-08; and how much the Government spent on legal aid to the families of the deceased in each such year. [32899]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) does not hold details of the annual cost to the whole of Government of legal representation at inquests. Each Department makes their own arrangements.

The MOJ specifically incurs legal costs at inquests following the deaths of serving prisoners. The Treasury Solicitor's Department charges the MOJ on a monthly basis for legal advice and representation at inquests. These charges came to £1.8 million in 2007-08; £2.2 million in 2008-09 and £2.7 million in 2009-10. It is not possible to attribute a proportion of these charges specifically to completed inquests.

Under the Access to Justice Act 1999, the Lord Chancellor has the power to authorise the Legal Services Commission to grant exceptional legal aid funding in cases which are not within the scope of the civil legal aid scheme. The total amount spent on exceptional funding was £1.1 million in 2007-08; £1.5 million in 2008-09 and £1.6 million in 2009-10. While most of the applications for exceptional funding are for inquests, it is not possible to disaggregate the expenditure on inquests from the total amount spent on exceptional funding.

Courts: Closures

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which constituencies a magistrates' court or county court will not be located following the implementation of his proposals for courts closures. [32761]

Mr Djanogly: The provision of courts in England and Wales is not determined by constituency boundaries. Each community in England and Wales is served by both a magistrates and county court. Many courts serve a number of constituencies and many constituencies are served by more than one court.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the distance is from each court which will close under his proposals for court closures to the nearest equivalent court which will remain open; and how many cases were dealt with in each court which he proposes to close in the last year for which figures are available. [32830]

Mr Djanogly: The consultation response documents detail the percentage of the population in each area within a 60 minute public transport commute of their local court. Table 1 shows details of the distance from closing court to receiving court for each of the courts that will close.

Central administrative systems do not provide statistics on completed proceedings at each individual magistrates court site, but do provide data by local justice areas

(LJAs). Table 2 therefore contains figures for the number of completed proceedings in 2009 for those LJAs which contain one or more magistrates courts proposed for closure. The counts provided do not relate solely to cases dealt with at the closing courts and include cases dealt with at any other magistrates courts in each LJA which are not proposed to close.

For county courts, Table 3 sets out the number of cases (non family) in 2009 in county courts that will close. Table 4 sets out the number of public and private law orders in 2009 in county courts that will close. Table 5 sets out the number of family proceedings completed in 2009 in county courts that will close.

Not shown on the tables are Coleford, Chepstow, Circencester, Rutland, Epsom and Llandovery magistrates courts, and Chepstow, Goole and Gravesend county courts, which were not utilised in 2009.

Table 1: Distance between closing court and receiving court

Magistrates court (MC)/county court (CC)	*Receiving magistrates court (MC)/county court (CC)*	*Distance (miles)*
Aberdare MC	Merthyr Tydfil MC	8
Aberdare CC	Merthyr Tydfil CC	8
Abertillery MC	Newport MC/Cwmbran MC	17/15
Acton MC	Ealing MC/Feltham MC/Uxbridge MC	3/10/12
Alnwick MC	Bedlington MC/Berwick upon Tweed MC	26/30
Alton MC	Aldershot MC/Basingstoke	14/14
Amersham MC	Aylesbury MC/High Wycombe MC	16/9
Ammanford MC	Llanelli MC	14
Andover MC	Basingstoke MC	23
Ashford CC	Canterbury CC	15
Ashford MC	Folkestone MC/Canterbury MC	16/15
Balham MC	South Western MC/Camberwell Green MC	3/5
Barking MC	Havering MC/Redbridge MC	9/7
Barry MC	Cardiff MC	10
Bicester MC	Banbury MC	21
Bishop Auckland CC	Durham CC	12
Bishop Auckland MC	Newton Aycliffe MC/Darlington MC	7/14
Blandford Forum MC	Weymouth MC	27
Blaydon MC	Gateshead MC	7
Brentford MC	Ealing MC/Feltham MC/Uxbridge MC	3/7/12
Bridgwater MC	Taunton MC	13
Burton upon Trent CC	Derby / Stafford CC	13/37
Camborne MC	Truro MC	17
Cardigan MC	Aberystwyth MC/Haverfordwest MC	39/27
Cheltenham CC	Gloucester CC	10
Chepstow CC	Newport CC	18
Chepstow MC	Newport MC/Cwmbran MC	18/22
Chorley CC	Preston CC	12
Cirencester MC	Gloucester MC/Stroud MC	21/13
Coalville MC	Hinckley MC	15
Coleford MC	Gloucester MC	20
Consett CC	Durham CC	14
Cromer MC	Norwich MC/Great Yarmouth MC	23/34
Daventry MC	Northampton MC	16
Denbigh MC	Prestatyn MC	14
Dewsbury CC	Huddersfield CC	10
Dewsbury MC	Huddersfield MC	9
Didcot MC	Oxford MC	15
Ely MC	Cambridge MC	18
Epping MC	Harlow MC/Chelmsford MC	7/19
Epsom CC	Redhill CC	10
Epsom MC	Redhill MC	10
Evesham CC	Worcester CC	17
Flint MC	Mold MC	6
Frame MC	Yeovil MC/Bath MC	32/15
Goole CC	Doncaster CC	24
Goole MC	Beverley MC/Hull MC	31/29
Gosforth MC	Newcastle upon Tyne MC	4
Grantham CC[1]	Boston CC	31
Gravesend CC	Dartford CC	8
Grays MC	Basildon MC/Southend MC	11/22
Guisborough MC	Middlesbrough MC	10
Halesowen MC	Dudley MC	6
Harlow CC[1]	Chelmsford CC	20
Harrow MC	Brent MC	7
Haywards Heath CC	Brighton CC	17
Haywards Heath MC	Crawley MC/Horsham MC	12/13
Hemel Hempstead MC	Watford MC	8
Hexham MC	Newcastle upon Tyne MC	22
Highgate MC	Highbury Corner MC	3
Hitchin CC	Luton CC	10
Honiton MC	Exeter MC	17
Houghton Le Spring MC	Sunderland MC	8
Huntingdon CC[1]	Peterborough CC	24
Ilford CC	Romford CC	5
Ilkeston MC	Derby MC	11
Keighley CC	Bradford CC	6
Keighley MC	Bradford MC	6
Kidderminster CC[1]	Worcester CC	15
Kingston upon Thames MC	Wimbledon MC	7
Knowsley MC	Liverpool MC	7
Lewes MC	Brighton MC	9
Liskeard MC	Bodmin MC	14
Llandovery MC	Llanelli MC	31
Llangefni MC[1]	Holyhead MC	17
Llwynpia MC	Pontypridd MC	7
Lowestoft CC[1]	Norwich CC	30
Ludlow CC	Telford CC	42
Ludlow MC	Telford MC	42
Lyndhurst MC	Southampton MC	11
Market Drayton MC	Shrewsbury MC	22
Market Harborough MC	Leicester MC	15
Melton Mowbray CC	Leicester CC	17
Melton Mowbray MC	Loughborough MC	18
Newark CC	Nottingham CC	15
Newark MC	Nottingham MC	20
Newbury CC[1]	Reading CC	21
Northwich CC	Crewe CC	15
Northwich MC	Chester MC/Crewe MC	25/15
Oswestry CC	Telford CC	34
Oswestry MC	Oswestry MC	22
Penrith CC	Carlisle CC	22
Penrith MC	Carlisle MC	22
Penzance CC	Truro CC	29
Penzance MC	Truro MC	28
Pontefract CC	Wakefield CC	12
Pontefract MC	Wakefield MC	14

Table 1: Distance between closing court and receiving court

Magistrates court (MC)/county court (CC)	*Receiving magistrates court (MC)/county court (CC)*	*Distance (miles)*
Pontypool CC	Blackwood CC	10
Poole CC[1]	Bournemouth CC	8
Pwllheli MC	Caernarfon MC/Dolgellau MC	21/38
Rawtenstall CC	Burnley CC	8
Rawtenstall MC	Burnley MC	8
Redditch CC[1]	Worcester CC	27
Retford MC	Worksop MC	10
Rhyl CC	Prestatyn CC	4
Rochdale MC	Bury MC	7
Rugby CC	Nuneaton CC	19
Rugby MC	Leamington Spa MC	17
Runcorn CC	Warrington CC	9
Rutland MC	Loughborough MC	13
Salford CC	Manchester CC	2
Salford MC	Manchester MC	1
Selby MC	York MC	15
Shrewsbury CC[1]	Telford CC	14
Sittingbourne MC	Chatham MC/Canterbury MC	10/17
Skegness CC[1]	Boston CC	23
Southport CC	Liverpool CC	20
Southport MC	Bottle MC	17
Stoke on Trent MC	Newcastle under Lyme MC	4
Stourbridge CC	Dudley CC	5
Stratford-Upon-Avon CC	Warwick CC	10
Sudbury MC	Bury St Edmunds MC	17
Sutton Coldfield MC	Birmingham MC	8
Sutton MC	Croydon MC	3
Swaffham MC	Kings Lynn MC	16
Tamworth CC	Stafford CC	30
Tamworth MC	Burton MC	13
Thetford MC	Norwich MC/Bury St Edmunds MC	33/13
Totnes MC	Torquay MC	10
Towcester MC	Northampton MC	17
Tower Bridge MC	Camberwell Green MC	4
Trowbridge CC	Chippenham CC	14
Wellingborough CC	Kettering CC	8
West Bromwich MC	Warley MC	2
Whitehaven CC	Workington CC	9
Whitehaven MC	Workington MC	9
Wimborne MC	Bournemouth MC	10
Wisbech MC	Peterborough MC/Kings Lynn MC	22/14
Witney MC	Oxford MC	13
Woking MC	Guildford MC/Staines MC	7/14
Woolwich MC	Greenwich MC	6
Worksop CC[1]	Mansfield CC	14

[1] Hearings to be retained.

Note:

Distances are rounded to nearest mile.

Table 2: Completed proceedings in selected magistrates courts, Local Justice Areas, 2009

Local Justice Area containing court(s) proposed for closure	*Closing magistrates court(s) within LJA*	*Number of completed proceedings within overall LJA*
Alnwick	Alnwick	899
Anglesey (Ynys Mon)	Llangefni	2,922
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Coalville	3,352
Barking	Barking	11,954
Batley and Dewsbury	Batley and Dewsbury	10,349
Bromley	Woolwich	19,435
Burnley Pendle and Rossendale	Rawtenstall	19,136
Central Buckinghamshire	Amersham	8,286
Central Devon	Honiton	12,230
Central Kent	Sittingbourne	20,430
Central Norfolk	Swaffham	173
Ceredigion	Cardigan	2,368
City of Salford	Salford	14,130
Cynon Valley	Aberdare	3,219
Daventry	Daventry	1,939
Denbighshire	Denbigh	6,886
Dinefwr	Ammanford	1,414
Dudley and Halesowen	Halesowen	3,134
Ealing	Acton	9,844
East Cambridgeshire	Ely	4,149
East Cornwall	Liskeard	7,409
East Dorset	Wimborne	20,887
East Kent	Ashford	25,712
Eden	Penrith	2,970
Flintshire	Flint	6,360
Gateshead	Blaydon	11,581
Goole and Howdenshire	Goole	2,880
Gwent	Abertillery	31,333
Gwynedd	Pwllheli	6,334
Haringey	Haringey (Highgate)	9,601
Harrow	Harrow	12,231
Hounslow	Brentford	12,738
Keighley	Bingley (Keighley)	7,760
Kingston-upon-Thames	Kingston upon Thames	4,860
Knowsley	Knowsley	7,927
Lambeth and Southwark	Tower Bridge	31,984
Langbaurgh East	Guisborough (East Langbaurgh)	2,900
Melton, Belvoir and Rutland	Melton Mowbray	2,279
Miskin	Llwynypia	10,334
New Forest	Lyndhurst	7,348
Newark and Southwell	Newark	2,790
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Gosforth	33,097
North East Hampshire	Alton	9,984
North Norfolk	Cromer	867
North Sefton	Southport (north Sefton)	3,448
North Staffordshire	Stoke-on-Trent	24,058
North West Essex	Epping	11,502
North West Hampshire	Andover	9,890
North West Surrey	Woking	7,659
Northern Oxfordshire	Bicester, Witney	14,090
Peterborough	Wisbech	16,746
Pontefract	Pontefract	10,447
Rochdale, Middleton and Heywood	Rochdale	14,067
Sandwell	West Bromwich	4,715
Sedgemoor	Bridgwater	3,095
Selby	Selby	2,122

Table 2: Completed proceedings in selected magistrates courts, Local Justice Areas, 2009

Local Justice Area containing court(s) proposed for closure	*Closing magistrates court(s) within LJA*	*Number of completed proceedings within overall LJA*
Shrewsbury and North Shropshire	Market Drayton, Market Harborough, Oswestry	6,739
South Devon	Totnes	10,301
South Durham	Bishop Auckland	14,968
South East Staffordshire	Tamworth	9,174
South Norfolk	Thetford	222
South Somerset and Mendip	Frome	5,984
South West Essex	Grays	4,441
Southern Derbyshire	Ilkeston	24,870
Southern Oxfordshire	Didcot	1,951
Sunderland and Houghton-le-Spring	Houghton-le-Spring	20,382
Sussex (Central)	Lewes	18,623
Sussex (Northern)	Mid-Sussex (Haywards Heath)	14,652
Sutton	Sutton	9,658
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Coldfield	11,248
Telford and South Shropshire	Ludlow	10,565
Towcester	Towcester	1,282
Tynedale	Tynedale (Hexham)	2,220
Vale of Glamorgan	Barry	7,031
Vale Royal	Northwich	11,329
Wandsworth	Balham youth court	22,047
Warwickshire	Rugby	22,530
West Cornwall	Camborne, Penzance	7,560
West Dorset	Blandford Forum	8,514
West Hertfordshire	Hemel Hempstead	25,858
West Suffolk	Sudbury	13,884
Whitehaven	Whitehaven	2,829
Worksop and Retford	Retford	6,486

Notes:

1. Figure include Criminal, Civil and Family proceedings, Means Inquiries, and Rights to Representation.
2. Information is only available at Local Justice Area; the figures provided in the table include completed proceedings at all the magistrates courts within each LJA, not just at those magistrates courts listed in the middle column.
3. The data come from an internal management system. The data are subject to our minimal levels of quality assurance and are based on the data currently available.

Source:

Completed Proceedings, HM Courts Service Performance Database (OPT)

Table 3: Total number of civil (non-family) cases heard in the selected county courts, 2009

County court	*Number of cases heard*
Aberdare County	265
Ashford County	647
Bishop Auckland County	436
Burton Upon Trent County	659
Cheltenham County	486
Chorley County	329
Consett County	373
Dewsbury County	1,393
Epsom County	743
Evesham County	253
Grantham County	295
Harlow County	739
Haywards Heath County	373
Hitchin County	886
Huntingdon County	407
Ilford County	1,646
Keighley County	339
Kidderminster County	431
Lowestoft County	601
Ludlow County	76
Melton Mowbray County	145
Newark County	185
Newbury County	303
Northwich County	386
Oswestry County	100
Penrith County	79
Penzance County	382
Pontefract County	641
Pontypool County	493
Poole County	738
Rawtenstall County	211
Redditch County	534
Rhyl County	516
Rugby County	324
Runcorn County	351
Salford County	1,827
Shrewsbury County	337
Skegness County	189
Southport County	507
Stourbridge County	539
Stratford County	209
Tamworth County	358
Trowbridge County	655
Wellingborough County	579
Whitehaven County	363
Worksop County	432

Notes:

1. Total number of civil proceedings completed in the Welsh county courts includes all cases disposed of by a trial or small claim hearing, or which saw an order for possession of property made at a hearing.
2. The county courts for which data have been provided were announced to be closed by the courts' Minister on 14 December 2010.

Source:

HM Courts Service CaseMan system and Possession Claim On-Line system

Table 4: Private and Public Law orders made in selected county courts, 2009

County court	*Order made*
Consett County	312
Runcorn County	163
Penrith County	16
Rawtenstall County	94
Keighley County	339
Bishop Auckland County	116
Salford County	277
Pontefract County	417
Ilford County	629
Penzance County	38
Whitehaven County	197
Rhyl County	508
Lowestoft County	201
Dewsbury County	785
Hitchin County	210
Burton Upon Trent County	229
Southport County	252
Trowbridge County	421
Epsom County	140
Shrewsbury County	320

Table 4: Private and Public Law orders made in selected county courts, 2009

County court	*Order made*
Harlow County	257

Notes:
1. Figures relate to the number of children subject to each application.
2. Public law refers to child protection cases where a local authority is stepping in to protect a child from harm. Private law refers to cases where there is a dispute between two or more private individuals regarding a child. For example, over where he/she is to live or whether someone should have contact with him/her. Both are cases brought under the Children Act 1989.
3. Figures include orders made in the county courts and the district registry of the High Court.
Source:
HM Courts Service FamilyMan system

Table 5: Completed family proceedings in selected county courts, 2009

County court	*Order made*
Consett County	273
Runcorn County	182
Penrith County	170
Rawtenstall County	196
Keighley County	413
Chorley County	330
Bishop Auckland County	415
Salford County	586
Pontefract County	487
Ilford County	1,130
Penzance County	391
Whitehaven County	454
Rhyl County	495
Lowestoft County	722
Dewsbury County	770
Hitchin County	698
Burton Upon Trent County	928
Southport County	741
Trowbridge County	952
Epsom County	814
Shrewsbury County	902
Harlow County	1,135

Notes:
1. Figures include orders made in the District Registry of the High Court, and exclude public and private law cases.
2. Figures include cases related to domestic violence injunctions, dissolution and nullity of marriage and ancillary relief.
3. One case may include more than one type of ancillary relief order.
Source:
HM Courts Service FamilyMan system

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions his Department has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings his Department was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions his Department has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31925]

Mr Djanogly: One embargoed briefing was given by Ministers to the media ahead of an oral statement. No embargoes have been breached and no briefings without an embargo have been held ahead of an oral statement.

All Ministers obey the ministerial code and ensure all important policy announcements are made to Parliament—by oral statement or WMS.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the effect of the increase in the standard rate of value added tax on his Department's annual expenditure. [31180]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice currently estimates that the net effect of the increase in standard rate value added tax for the last quarter of the 2010-11 financial year will be £19 million; for 2011-12 the effect is estimated to be £75 million. The Ministry of Justice recovers VAT incurred on certain contracted out services and the £75 million estimate is net of VAT recoveries. Departmental spending review settlements are set on a tax-inclusive basis, including the increase to the standard rate of VAT.

Departmental Responsibilities

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests have been received by Ministers in his Department for meetings with the President of the Law Society since 6 May 2010; and how many meetings on what dates have taken place between Ministers in his Department and the President of the Law Society. [32014]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: All requests for ministerial meetings by the President of the Law Society are honoured by me and my Ministers wherever possible. Since the 6 May 2010, I have had one meeting with the President of the Law Society, Linda Lee, on 19 October 2010, and one with her predecessor, Robert Heslett, on 8 June 2010; the Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Huntingdon (Mr Djangoly) has had three meetings each with Linda Lee on 27 July 2010, 14 October 2010, and 16 November 2010, and Robert Heslett on 8 June 2010, 30 June 2010, and 14 July 2010; and my noble Friend the Minister of State, Lord McNally has had one meeting with Linda Lee on 17 November 2010.

Family Courts: Legal Aid

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who attended the meeting on 15 January 2010 between the Legal Services Commission and the Law Society on the family tendering exercise. [32010]

Mr Djanogly: The meeting was attended by two members of the LSC's Family Policy Team, and one representative from each of the Law Society, Resolution and the Legal Aid Practitioners Group.

Legal Aid Scheme

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the population will have access to legal aid following the implementation of his Department's proposed reforms; and what proportion of the population had access to legal aid in *(a)* 1998, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* the latest period for which figures are available. [32477]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has not made an assessment of the impact the legal aid reforms may have on the proportion of the population that have access to legal aid. However, the MOJ made an estimate on the number likely to be affected by the reforms.

The proposed legal aid reforms will affect access to civil legal aid; however, they do not affect access to criminal legal aid. The estimated impact of the proposed legal aid reforms on the number that would not have had access to legal aid in 2008-10 has been published in the legal aid reform impact assessments on the Ministry of Justice website.

The following table outlines the number of people who claimed legal aid in 2008-09 and 2005-06. However, data are not available for 1998-99 as this pre-dates central recording of legal aid claimant data.

The figures are recorded separately for civil and criminal legal aid. Civil legal aid is split between legal help (advice) and legal representation. Criminal legal aid is split between crime lower (work at police stations and in the magistrates court) and crime higher (representation in Crown court).

Clients can also access civil legal advice from the community legal advice telephone line which is excluded from these figures.

	Total civil legal representation	*Total civil legal help*	*Total crime lower*	*Total crime higher*
1998-99	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005-06	151,333	744,267	1,488,900	121,500
2008-09	138,933	793,240	1,407,700	126,100

Legal Aid Scheme and Universal Credit

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the proposed timetable for the *(a)* reform of legal aid and *(b)* introduction of the universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [32474]

Mr Djanogly: Discussions have taken place at official level on the timetable for reform of legal aid and the introduction of the universal credit.

We will work together closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure that the legal aid passporting provisions for income are appropriately aligned with the proposed reforms to the system of financial support for people of working age, including the proposal that combines income related benefits and tax credits.

Legal Aid Scheme: Telephone Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the implications of his proposals for a single telephone gateway for civil legal aid services, on people who *(a)* do not have access to a telephone, *(b)* have a health condition that prevents them from using a telephone and *(c)* have English language difficulties; and if he will make a statement. [32475]

Mr Djanogly: Clients who do not have access to a telephone (either personally or through family or friends) can obtain e-mail advice through the Community Legal Advice (CLA) service. Access to the internet is available free of charge in many public locations such as libraries. In addition, many voluntary and community sector organisations allow clients access to their telephone services or would ring the helpline on their behalf. The CLA helpline also offers a call-me-back service for clients concerned about the cost of their call.

Many clients with health conditions find it difficult to travel to their advice provider or sit in waiting rooms and often find that telephone advice services are more convenient. The CLA helpline accepts calls from clients using systems such as Minicom and Typetalk that aid communication with or between deaf, hard-of-hearing, or speech-impaired people. Clients with hearing or speech impairments may also access advice through the e-mail service or through the British Sign Language service offered by the helpline in partnership with the Royal Association for the Deaf.

The CLA helpline offers a free translation service in 170 languages through Language Line for clients seeking advice in a language other than English or Welsh.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether individuals who are referred for specialist advice will have a choice of provider following the implementation of his proposals for a single telephone gateway for civil legal aid services; and if he will make a statement. [32476]

Mr Djanogly: In cases referred to face-to-face advice, CLA call agents will offer clients details of a number of providers that are geographically closest to their home or place of work dealing with cases in the category of law in question. Clients will be able to request details of additional providers and to choose which provider to visit.

Legal Aid: Contracts

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what terms of agreement were reached between the Law Society, the Legal Services Commission and his Department arising from the judgment of the Court of Appeal decision of November 2007 on the Law Society's Judicial Review of the civil legal aid contract: when and by what means the terms of the agreement were published; what statements were made by his Department on the Legal Services Commission on that subject in April 2008; and what information was provided about the extent of the power to amend the contract. [32012]

Mr Djanogly: The terms of agreement reached between the LSC, Law Society and MoJ arising from the judgment of the Court of Appeal decision of November 2007 on the Law Society's Judicial Review of the Unified Civil Contract (2007) were included in the Deed of Settlement, which was made and published on the LSC website in

April 2008. A copy of the deed and further details about it are available on the LSC website:

http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil/agreement_law_society.asp

On 2 April 2008 the Ministry of Justice tabled a written ministerial statement which was laid in both Houses along with a press release (see following link for the press release).

http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease020408c.htm

On 2 April 2008 the LSC published a news story on its website about this, and included a link to the news story in its regular LSC update e-mail which goes out every two weeks to legal aid providers and anyone else who has registered to receive it.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provisions in the Legal Services Commission's Unified Contract (Civil) 2007 provided for subsequent amendment to that contract. [32017]

Mr Djanogly: Clause 13 of the Unified Contract (Civil) 2007 Standard Terms provides for subsequent amendment to it.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Legal Services Commission extended the Unified Contract (Civil) 2007 pursuant to clause 13.4 of the contract's standard terms; and what role the *(a)* chair, *(b)* chief executive and *(c)* legal director had in such decisions. [32018]

Mr Djanogly: There have been several extensions of the Unified Contract (Civil) 2007. It was initially granted for three years from 1 April 2007 (to expire on 31 March 2010 unless lawfully ended or extended before then). On 23 December 2009 the LSC published notification that the contract would be extended to 14 October 2010. This extension was to take account of tenders for 2010 contracts opening in January to March 2010.

The contract required notice of any further extension to be given at least three months before 31 March 2010, therefore it was necessary to revise this provision before any further extension. On 13 September 2010 a further extension of the contract to expire at midnight on 14 November 2010 was announced. This was to preserve the status quo pending the legal challenge brought by the Law Society. The extension provisions were amended pursuant to clause 13.4 of the contract's standard terms to provide for one month's notice for future extensions.

Following judgment in R (On the application of Law Society of England and Wales) *v* Legal Services Commission [2010] All ER (D) 01 (Oct) which quashed the 2010 family tender two further extensions to the Unified Contract (2007) have been made (details are provided on the LSC website) for only the providers who currently deliver 'family only' and 'family and housing' publicly-funded legal services. The Unified Contract (Civil) 2007 was extended first until midnight on 14 December and then until midnight on 30 November 2011. This was necessary to ensure continued provision of services following quashing of the family law tenders for new contracts.

The extension provisions of the contract were again amended this time pursuant to clause 13.2 (and not 13.4) of the Unified Contract (Civil) 2007 Standard Terms, in reliance on the above judgment. This approach was approved by the court at the final hearing.

The decision to extend the contracts in light of the judicial review was made by the LSC Board in October 2010. The board consists of the chair and non-executive members, as well as the chief executive and finance director who have equal decision-making rights. The legal director was present when the decision was taken.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps the Legal Services Commission has taken to *(a)* record and *(b)* process complaints made about its tendering exercises; and what have been the results of such steps. [32019]

Mr Djanogly: The LSC is committed to providing the best possible service for all its customers. It strives to maintain the highest standards of customer service and effective complaint handling. If the LSC cannot resolve a complaint internally, then it can be escalated to the parliamentary ombudsman.

Complaints relating to the tender process have come in through several routes; as formal complaints, as claims for judicial review and as questions sent through the eTendering system.

Complaints have been recorded separately, depending on the route through which they have been submitted, and dealt with through the appropriate process for that route.

In early 2011 the LSC will undertake a lessons learned review of the tender process for both civil and crime 2010 contracts, which will consider feedback received from representative bodies and providers.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Legal Services Commission has taken to inform its staff of the implications for them of the judgment of the Divisional Court in the case of R (On the application of Law Society of England and Wales) *v* Legal Services Commission [2010]; and *(a)* on what date and *(b)* by what means such steps were taken. [32116]

Mr Djanogly: Staff have been updated about the developments relating to the tenders through regular communications since the summer. The chief executive, executive directors and the senior management team have kept staff updated via face-to-face briefings, intranet discussion forums and regular written and verbal updates, the exact dates of which have not been recorded.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what role in the decision of the Legal Services Commission (LSC) to extend the 2007 unified contract under clause 13.4 of that contract was played by the *(a)* chair, *(b)* chief executive and *(c)* legal director of the LSC. [32180]

Mr Djanogly: There have been several extensions of the Unified Contract (Civil) 2007. It was initially granted for three years from 1 April 2007 (to expire on 31 March 2010 unless lawfully ended or extended before then). On 23 December 2009 the LSC published notification that the contract would be extended to 14 October 2010. This extension was to take account of tenders for 2010 contracts opening in January to March 2010.

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The decision to extend the contracts in light of the judicial review was made by the LSC Board in October 2010. The board consists of the chair and non-executive members, as well as the chief executive and finance director who have equal decision-making rights. The legal director was present when the decision was taken.

Legal Services Commission

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Legal Services Commission spent on *(a)* professional subscriptions and *(b)* costs in connection with the employment of its Principal Legal Adviser in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10 and (iv) 2010-11. [32184]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the costs of practising certificates for each of the financial years specified. These are the only subscription costs attributed solely to the Legal Director, although they are a requirement.

	£
2007-08	1,050
2008-09	1,045
2009-10	1,310
2010-11	438

The LSC's Legal Director has been employed at Senior Civil Service Band 1 during the time period specified and as such the salary has been in line with the range for this level. Since 1 April 2010 the Legal Director has been a member of the executive team and the salary details for the current financial year will therefore be published in the annual report and accounts for 2010-11. The salary range for this level is currently £58,200 to £117,800. In addition, the Legal Director also has a leased car partly funded by the LSC. The net costs to the LSC are as follows:

	£
2007-08	3,174
2008-09	5,503
2009-10	5,265
2010-11 to date	1,214

Legal Services Commission: Contracts

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the obligations of the Legal Services Commission are regarding notification as set out in clause 32 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006; and what the responsibilities are of the *(a)* chair, *(b)* chief executive and *(c)* legal director in respect of compliance with such obligations. [32055]

Mr Djanogly: The LSC is under no obligation to comply with regulation 32 of the public contracts regulations (information about contract award procedures) in respect of its legal aid contracts. Regulation 32 does not apply to part B contracts, which include contracts for legal services.

The LSC board is responsible for ensuring that the LSC maintains high standards of governance at all times. The chair and chief executive have equal decision-making rights on the board, and all meetings are usually attended by the legal director.

The chief executive is responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of the LSC. The chief executive is responsible to the chair who is in turn responsible to the Lord Chancellor.

Legal Services Commission: Manpower

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of the Legal, Commissioning and Operational Policy Department of the Legal Services Commission (LSC) with what job title were based in each of the LSC's offices on *(a)* the latest date for which information is available, *(b)* 31 March 2007, *(c)* 31 March 2008, *(d)* 31 March 2009 and *(e)* 31 March 2010. [32181]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible to provide a response in the format requested except at disproportionate cost. The Legal, Commissioning and Operational Policy Department was created in May 2010 and the latest figures show there being 89 full-time equivalent staff members working from a variety of LSC offices.

Legal Services Commission: Training

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who gave authorisation, and in what form, for the participation of the Principal Legal Adviser to the Legal Services Commission (LSC) in an advanced management programme course; what conditions were set on her participation; what benefit the LSC has received from her participation; and what further benefit it expects to receive from her participation. [32182]

Mr Djanogly: The LSC's then chief executive, Carolyn Regan, authorised this course with approval from the LSC's HR director. No specific conditions were set on the legal director's participation. The leadership development course was targeted at specialists developing a broader range of management disciplines. The course has been beneficial to the LSC's organisational restructure in that the legal director now has responsibility for a larger department.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Legal Services Commission spent on the provision of education and training courses in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11; on what courses the money was spent; and who the provider was in each case. [32183]

Mr Djanogly: Total expenditure on training courses for each of the years specified is provided in the following table. It is not possible to split these costs down further by course or provider as to do so could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

	£000
2007-08	1,125
2008-09	756
2009-10	438
2010-11 to date	104

Pleural Plaques: Compensation

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many payments under the Pleural Plaques Compensation Scheme have been made in Tyne and Wear; and how many such claims are being processed. [31995]

Mr Djanogly: A total of 584 applicants with a Tyne and Wear postcode have already been paid under the Pleural Plaques Scheme. There are currently 511 other cases being processed which have Tyne and Wear postcodes.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the average amount of time taken to process a claim under the Pleural Plaques Compensation scheme. [31996]

Mr Djanogly: The average time taken to process an application based on completed cases is 41 working days. This includes the time that applicants are given to provide supporting information as well as the time that they are given to consider the offer before advising their acceptance. Separate figures for these stages are not available.

Prisoners' Release: Reoffenders

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which agency will be collecting data in respect of any re-offending by prisoners leaving HM Prison Peterborough under the provisions of the Social Impact Bond; and over what period such data will be collected. [32439]

Mr Blunt: The impact of the Social Impact Bond pilot scheme on reoffending will be evaluated by an independent assessor. A competitive tender process to appoint the independent assessor is under way.

The independent assessor will use a database compiled and maintained by the Ministry of Justice, based on data recorded on the Police National Computer by police forces in England and Wales.

Evaluations will commence 18 months after each cohort closes. This delay is to allow for any crimes committed by the offenders following their release from prison to be detected, prosecuted and recorded on the Police National Computer.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the most recent recidivism rate was for prisoners leaving HM Prison Peterborough. [32440]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice published the latest 'Compendium of reoffending statistics and analysis' on 4 November 2010. This publication included the latest available data on reconviction rates for individual prisons, covering the 2007 calendar year.

The one-year reconviction rate of male prisoners discharged from HMP Peterborough in 2007 was 62.9% among those serving sentences of less than 12 months. For male offenders sentenced to 12 months or longer, the one-year reconviction rate was 35.0%.

The one-year reconviction rate of female prisoners discharged from HMP Peterborough in 2007 was 62.9% among those serving sentences of less than 12 months. For female offenders sentenced to 12 months or longer, the one-year reconviction rate was 34.3%.

These reconviction rates relate only to offenders who were discharged from HMP Peterborough at the end of their sentence. They do not take into account the actual proportion of the sentence that was served in the establishment, or those offenders who served part of their sentence in HMP Peterborough before being discharged from another prison.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to the merits of extending the Social Impact Bond scheme to *(a)* high risk, priority and prolific offenders and *(b)* offenders serving long-term sentences. [32441]

Mr Blunt: The Government have no plans to extend the terms of the current Social Impact Bond pilot at HMP Peterborough.

On 7 December 2010, the Government set out in the Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders" their proposals to establish at least six new payment by results projects for reducing reoffending.

These include two payments by results projects for offenders released from prison, focusing on those offenders who are sentenced to less than 12 months in prison, and two large scale projects for offenders managed on community sentences and those released on licence.

The Government consider that it is not necessarily appropriate to apply a payment by results regime to the management of all offenders. For example, there is a case that those who pose a high risk to the public should be excluded, given that the focus of the supervising agencies participating in multi-agency public protection arrangements is on effectively managing the risk of harm which such offenders present. The Ministry of Justice is seeking to test this view as part of the Green Paper consultation process.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to fund social sector organisations participating in the Peterborough pilot of the Social Impact Bond. [32442]

Mr Blunt: Under the Social Impact Bond pilot, Social Finance will commission social sector organisations such as the St Giles Trust to deliver intensive services and mentoring to reduce reconvictions in 3,000 short-sentence (less than 12 months) prisoners released from HMP Peterborough. Social Finance will use significant new resources from social investors to fund this work.

The Government will pay Social Impact Bond investors only if the scheme is successful in reducing reconvictions. Together with the Big Lottery Fund, the Government will pay for results if reconvictions fall by 10% in one of the three 1,000-offender cohorts, or by an aggregate of 7.5% across the three cohorts together. If these thresholds are not achieved, no payment will be made.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Prison Service will take in respect of prisoners in HM Prison Peterborough who are eligible for the Social Impact Bond scheme and decline to participate in the pilot. [32443]

Mr Blunt: All adult male offenders serving a sentence of less than 12 months at HMP Peterborough will automatically be included in the Social Impact Bond scheme upon their arrival at HMP Peterborough, until the pilot reaches capacity at 3,000 offenders.

There is no mandatory requirement for prisoners to participate in the Social Impact Bond pilot. However, qualifying prisoners who decline participation, or disengage after initially taking part, will be able to join the programme and access services at any point later on, including after their discharge into the community.

For the purposes of evaluating the success of the Social Impact Bond pilot, offenders who decline to participate will remain within the cohort and the frequency of the reconviction of non-participants will be taken into account by the independent assessor.

Remand in Custody: Prison Sentences

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were remanded in custody in each of the last three years; and how many were given a custodial sentence in each such year. [31690]

Mr Blunt: The estimated number of males and females remanded in custody who went on to receive a custodial sentence at magistrates courts and the Crown court in England and Wales 2007 to 2009 (latest currently available) is shown in the table.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in spring 2011.

Persons remanded in custody[1] who subsequently received a custodial sentence[2] at magistrates courts[3] and the Crown court[4], by sex, England and Wales 2007-09

Persons (thousand)

	2007[5]	*2008*[6,7]	*2009*[7]
Males			
Remanded in custody	68.3	78.2	67.6
Of which immediate custody	36.1	40.8	40.6
Females			
Remanded in custody	6.2	5.1	5.2
Of which immediate custody	2.7	2.3	2.8

[1] Includes those remanded in custody at any stage of proceedings at magistrates and the Crown court who may also have been given bail at some stage of those proceedings.

[2] Includes detention in a young offender institution, detention and training orders and unsuspended imprisonment.

[3] Magistrates courts figures exclude those committed for trial or sentence at the Crown court.

[4] Crown court cases are not necessarily concluded in the same year as the committal therefore the figures presented may include cases where defendants were remanded in custody during earlier years than under which they are presented in this table.

[5] Includes estimates for those offences omitted from data supplied.

[6] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[7] Data for 2008 and 2009 are estimated.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Reparation By Offenders

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much income was received by probation trusts through community payback schemes in 2009-10. [32252]

Mr Blunt: Each probation trust is responsible for collecting and accounting for its own costs. The probation trust contract does not split out the amounts for each element of the probation service provided by the trust. The National Offender Management Service is currently finalising and agreeing each trust's costs for community payback as part of the specification, benchmarking and costing programme. This work is not yet complete.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of the probation service are engaged in delivering the community payback scheme. [32255]

Mr Blunt: The latest available figures on the number of staff in the probation service working in community payback roles are shown in the following table, broken down into job group. It shows that on 31 July 2010 there were a total of 1,646.71 FTE permanent staff in post and an additional 688 casual staff (headcount) in these roles.

Permanent and casual staff in community payback roles, 31 July 2010

Job group	*Staff in post (FTE)*	*Casual staff (Headcount)*
Area/district manager	3.00	0
Assistant chief officer	2.00	0
Middle manager	92.46	0
Other operational staff	365.27	326
Other staff	79.64	21
Probation officer	40.61	16
Probation services officer	628.22	297
Senior practitioner	11.00	0
Support staff		
Administration	403.28	1
Support staff—other	16.23	27
Treatment manager	5.00	0
Total	1,646.71	688

Restraint Techniques: Children

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisation has developed the restraint techniques under consideration by the Restraint Accreditation Board; what expertise that organisation has in *(a)* children's human rights, *(b)* working with traumatised children and *(c)* child development; whether any other organisations were invited to make proposals for the development of new restraint techniques for use in children's custody; and what criteria were used in determining which organisation would be asked to develop restraint techniques for use in children's custody. [32277]

Mr Blunt: The Independent Review of Restraint recommended that The National Tactical Response Group, part of the National Offender Management Service, develop a new approach to restraint for use in young offender institutions and secure training centres. Conflict Resolution Training (CRT) is currently being accredited by the Restraint Accreditation Board. The board is made up of child forensic psychiatrists, behaviour management specialists, physiotherapists, paediatricians, pathologists, academics, and operational experts.

CRT has been developed in consultation with behaviour management specialists and experts from a range of settings, including all sectors of the under-18s secure estate, health, mental health, independent training providers, third sector agencies, and academics.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the restraint techniques currently being considered by the Restraint Accreditation Board contain a component that allows the infliction of pain during the application of the technique. [32278]

Mr Blunt: It is essential that approved and effective techniques are available to staff in custodial establishments who find themselves dealing with young people whose behaviour puts the young people themselves, or others, at risk of harm.

There are currently a small number of restraint techniques that the Restraint Accreditation Board is considering as part of the proposed new Conflict Resolution Training package that incorporate the use of pain.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Restraint Accreditation Board has sought human rights legal advice in its consideration of new restraint techniques for use in children's custody. [32279]

Mr Blunt: The requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the UN convention on rights of the child together with all other requirements of international and domestic law are taken into account by the Government in determining their policy and practice on the use of restraint in the under-18 secure estate. This will apply when the Government consider advice from the Restraint Accreditation Board on accrediting new restraint techniques.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he expects identical accredited restraint techniques to be used in *(a)* young offender institutions, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* local authority secure children's homes; and if he will make a statement. [32280]

Mr Blunt: The Restraint Accreditation Board is currently considering whether to accredit a new approach to restraint for introduction into secure training centres and young offender institutions. We await their expert advice on whether the needs of young people in each secure estate sector require different approaches.

Supreme Court: Buildings

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable has been set for repair of the ground floor windows of the Supreme Court facing Parliament Square. [32429]

Mr Djanogly: During disturbances in Parliament Square and Broad Sanctuary in the afternoon and evening of 9 December, the Supreme Court had panes of glass in 14 ground floor windows broken, including the destruction of original 97 year old leaded lights. All the windows had secondary glazing and none of those was penetrated, albeit that one pane of the secondary glazing was damaged.

The ordinary broken glazing in the 14 windows was replaced on 10 December. The window putty beads will be painted black in a few weeks' time when they have hardened.

The bomb resistant pane of glass for the secondary glazing was replaced on 15 December.

It is expected that the leaded lights will be returned from the restorer's workshop before the end of February 2011. For the time being, the windows have been glazed with plain glass.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Buildings: Community Development

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which community buildings have transferred ownership to parish groups in *(a)* England and *(b)* the UK in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [31859]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 21 December 2010]*: Information on the transfer of community buildings to parish groups is not held centrally. Information relating to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter. For further, general information I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 930-31W.

Buildings: Timber

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the average timber content of new buildings in each of the last five years; [31064]

(2) whether his Department has made an assessment of the likely effects on the environment of the implementation of a statutory minimum level of use of timber in new building construction; and if he will make a statement. [31039]

Andrew Stunell: The Department has made no estimate of the timber content of new buildings nor has it made any assessment of the effects of implementing a statutory minimum.

Building regulations set requirements on the performance of completed buildings and do not prescribe how this performance should be achieved or what materials should be used. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is exploring the promotion of the use of timber in construction and we will work closely with DEFRA and external partners on this.

Commonwealth Local Government Forum

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support his Department plans to provide to the biennial conference of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. [32781]

Robert Neill: My right hon. Friend recognises the importance of Her Majesty's Government being represented at the biennial conference of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, and it is hoped that Baroness Hanham will attend the conference.

Community Relations

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department provides to organisations that help migrant workers integrate into their local community. [30618]

Andrew Stunell: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to Lord Roberts of Llandudno by my noble. Friend Baroness Hanham on 22 July 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 245WA.

Construction: Yorkshire and the Humber

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial assistance his Department has provided to the YORbuild Framework. [32375]

Robert Neill: The YORbuild Framework, for the efficient procurement of construction projects, was developed and implemented by YoHr Space, a locally owned and led partnership of authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber area (latterly the area's Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership).

The Department provided annual, un-ringfenced funding to YoHr Space from 2004-05 to 2010-11 inclusive to support its development of a range of projects designed to help authorities improve service delivery and achieve greater value for money. YoHr Space confirms that £475,000 of this funding has been used in support of YORbuild.

Deaths: Cold Weather

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions his Department has had with local authorities on steps to reduce the number of elderly people who die because of cold weather. [31781]

Andrew Stunell: My Department has had no such discussions but I encourage local authorities to work with their local NHS partners on the recently launched Keep Warm Keep Well campaign. The campaign provides advice on staying warm over the winter and staying in touch with people who may be vulnerable during cold weather, including the elderly, in order to reduce illness and deaths.

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions his Department has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings his Department was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions his Department has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31913]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not provided any embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many copies of each publication to which his Department subscribes it received in *(a)* June, *(b)* July and *(c)* August 2010. [30782]

Robert Neill: We have interpreted this question as asking about hard copy corporate subscriptions to journals and publications. The Department also purchases subscriptions for the Department for Transport under a shared service agreement.

Identifying such subscriptions and any subscriptions purchased outside of the corporate agreement could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ministers have made £15,000 a year of revenue savings by consolidating the seven sets of papers and periodicals that Ministers and special advisers were receiving. As outlined in my answer of 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 178W, significant savings have been made in relation to the wasteful and excessive spending on press cutting that Ministers inherited from the last Administration.

The information requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Departmental Procurement

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have taken to comply with the Guidance of the Office of Government Commerce on promoting skills through public procurement issued in 2009. [31315]

Robert Neill: The Department has issued guidance to all its buyers, agencies and non-departmental bodies specifically on apprenticeships and small to medium enterprises.

Details of any activities undertaken by the Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Empty Property

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he made of the number of vacant properties in the *(a)* social and *(b)* private rented sector in (i) England, (ii) Leeds and (iii) Leeds North West constituency in each of the last five years. [31968]

Andrew Stunell: Information is not collected by constituency nor is information collected on the number of vacant dwellings in the private rented sector.

The Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) collects information from local authorities on the number of vacant dwellings within each local authority area as at 1 April.

The Regulatory Statistical Return is collected by the Tenant Services Authority and collects information on vacant dwellings from housing associations as at 31 March. However, the number of vacant dwellings recorded includes general needs dwellings only.

The following table shows the number of vacant dwellings owned by local authorities and housing associations in Leeds and England in each year for the past five years.

Vacant social housing dwellings, as at 1 April for local authority and as at 31 March for housing association

		Number
	Local authority	*Housing association*
2006		
Leeds	1,241	281
England	42,891	30,892
2007		
Leeds	1,757	218
England	40,963	32,077
2008		
Leeds	1,979	183
England	36,944	30,799
2009		
Leeds	1,869	197
England	34,555	33,451
2010		
Leeds	1,433	155
England	31,089	27,946

Note:

Housing association dwellings includes general needs dwellings only. *Sources:*

1. For local authority vacants, Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA)
2. For housing association vacants, Regulatory Statistical Return collected by the Tenant Services Authority.

Entertainments

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on staff entertainment since 1 June 2010. [30668]

Robert Neill: We have interpreted entertainment to mean attendance at spectator type events such as concerts or sports. Departmental records show no such expenditure since 1 June 2010.

Flood Control

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contingency plans *(a)* his Department and *(b)* local authorities have made to respond to flooding resulting from melting snow. [32755]

Robert Neill: My Department is the lead Government Department for the national coordination of recovery from all sources of flooding in England. The Department has a dedicated team to coordinate Government activity to support recovery as required. This includes 24/7 duty cover and resilience teams across the country who work closely with local responders to enable central Government to provide support to local areas if required.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is the lead Government Department for the central response to flooding events.

The Civil Contingencies Act (2004) requires Category One Responders (such as local authorities, police and fire and rescue authorities) to have plans in place to respond to all emergencies. For many parts of England, flooding poses a significant risk and is well recognised within many Community Risk Registers.

Most local authorities, and the Local Resilience Forums of which they are part, have multi-agency flood plans, based on guidance produced by central Government, which set out their response and recovery plans to flooding. They also benefit from the daily flood forecasts from the Flood Forecasting Centre, which include assessments of the risk of flooding from snow melt at an individual county level.

Homelessness

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when he expects to announce his plans for the future of the Homelessness Basic Revenue Grant; [30761]

(2) what the total monetary value was of grants provided by his Department to tackle homelessness in *(a)* London and *(b)* England since 6 May 2010; [30789]

(3) how much funding his Department provided for measures to tackle homelessness in each year from 1997-98 to 2009-10. [30790]

Grant Shapps: We announced as part of the spending review outcome that we will invest £400 million in Preventing Homelessness Grant over the next four years to support the work of local authorities and the voluntary sector, maintaining current levels of investment. Allocations of Preventing Homelessness Grant for local authorities were published on 13 December 2010 as part of the provisional local Government settlement for 2010-11. This can be found on the Department's website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/specgrant1112/index.htm

Since May 2010, we have allocated £70.9 million in homelessness grant to local authorities in England, of which £37.6 million was to local authorities in London. This included £10 million to support London authorities in their preparatory work for implementation of the housing benefit reforms. We have also allocated £20.7 million directly to voluntary sector organisations.

The following table gives homelessness grant spend from 1997-98 to 2009-10.

Homelessness Grant Spend 1997-98 to 2009-10

£ million

	LA	*Voluntary sector*	*Total*
1997-98	0	15.8	15.8
1998-99	0	19.6	19.6
1999-2000	3.1	22.6	25.7
2000-01	2.9	28.6	31.5
2001-02	3.5	36.6	40.1
2002-03	48.2	25.0	73.2
2003-04	50.6	20.3	70.9
2004-05	45.4	14.8	60.2
2005-06	44.7	15	59.7
2006-07	49.5	18	67.5
2007-08	51	19.5	70.5
2008-09	59.5	17.1	76.5
2009-10	59.5	18.4	77.9

Housing Benefit

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether individuals not in accommodation owing to an inability to pay rents under the proposed changes to local housing allowance may be declared intentionally homeless. [32597]

Grant Shapps: Under the homelessness legislation that applies to England (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) a person becomes intentionally homeless if he or she is required to leave accommodation as a consequence of his or her own deliberate behaviour, and, but for that behaviour, it would have been reasonable for that person to continue to occupy the accommodation. A person who does not have accommodation owing to an inability to pay rents may or may not have become intentionally homeless, depending on the circumstances of the case. However, it is for local housing authorities to make decisions in individual cases.

Local Government Finance

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have unallocated financial reserves of over *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 20 per cent., *(c)* 30 per cent., *(d)* 40 per cent. and *(e)* 50 per cent. of their budget for 2010-11. [30764]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table that gives, by each local authority in England, and for each class of local authority in England, the budgeted non-school reserve level and unallocated reserve level figures at 31 March 2011. Included in this table are also total non-school and unallocated reserve levels at 31 March 2011 as a percentage of budgeted revenue expenditure in the financial year 2010-11.

Reserves set aside for a specific purpose by local authorities are known as 'earmarked reserves'. Some will reflect statutory constraints on the use of some categories of income, such as on-street parking charges.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations his Department has received on reductions in the formula grant for 2011-12. [32084]

Robert Neill: The consultation on the provisional Local Government Finance settlement for 2011-12 was announced by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, on 13 December 2010, and will continue until 17 January 2011. A number of representations on our proposals have been received, and I expect more.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the level of cost inflation in respect of local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [32267]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Local Government Finance: Nottingham

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the largest formula change component is in the local government grant allocation he made in his announcement of 13 December 2010 in respect of the 8.4 per cent. reduction in spending power for Nottingham city council. [32530]

Robert Neill: The four components to the changes in an individual authority's allocation of formula grant are changes in:

the size of the relative needs and relative resource blocks;

control totals;

methodology; and

data.

No formal analysis of this kind has been undertaken, but the change in control totals is likely to be the main driver. The changes to the distribution formulae are set out in the consultation paper on the provisional settlement.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department has identified as the most statistically significant change in the new formula for the Supporting People allocation announced on 13 December 2010 in respect of the reduction affecting Nottingham city council compared with the formula used in 2010-11. [32531]

Grant Shapps: The Supporting People allocation as described in annex K of the draft "Local Government Finance Report (England) 2011/2012" remains unchanged from the underlying formula used for the 2010-11 allocations. The data used have been updated.

The previous Administration removed the ring fence for Supporting People funding in April 2009. In distributing the 2010-11 Supporting People allocations via area-based grant, the allocations to local authorities were damped to ensure that no authority received a large cut year-on-year. Since Supporting People was one of the services transferred into formula grant from 2011-12, it is no longer damped separately but instead is included in the damping applied to total formula grant which also ensures that no authority receives a large cut year-on-year on a like-for-like basis.

I have written an open letter to the leader of Nottingham city council which sets out how funding for vulnerable people has been protected and clarifies how the local government finance system works in relation to the 'formula grant', which includes funding for Supporting People, that Nottingham city council will receive. I have placed a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Local Government Finance: Worcestershire

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average change in grant funding to each district council in Worcestershire in 2011-12. [32246]

Robert Neill: The provisional local government finance settlements for 2011-12 and 2012-13 were announced by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, on 13 December 2010. Details of the provisional settlement for 2011-12, and of the local government finance settlement for 2010-11, are available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ssas.htm

Members: Correspondence

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Hazel Gorve (Andrew Stunell) plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hartlepool of 26 July 2010, in respect of his constituent Mr Richard Wilson and building regulations. [32444]

Andrew Stunell: I have now replied to the hon. Member's correspondence.

Migrant Impact Fund

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future *(a)* funding of and *(b)* distribution of funding by the Migrant Impact Fund. [31254]

Andrew Stunell: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to Lord Roberts of Llandudno by my noble Friend Baroness Hanham on 22 July 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 245WA.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 480W, on planning permission: appeals, whether he plans to put in place measures to prevent local authorities from granting permission for developments that are not in accordance with locally agreed plans; and if he will make a statement. [32804]

Greg Clark: Legislation already requires local authorities to make planning decisions that are in accordance with the statutory development plan—unless material considerations dictate otherwise. The Localism Bill includes provisions to establish neighbourhood plans which when adopted would become part of the statutory development plan.

Planning Permission: Community Development

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of what types of development he plans to enable neighbourhood residents to exercise planning control. [32083]

Robert Neill: Communities will be able to use neighbourhood planning to set policies for, and enable the delivery of, a wide range of development schemes including residential, commercial and leisure development proposals. The scope of neighbourhood planning is flexible. It will be for communities to determine the issues or areas to cover and what level of detail they want to provide.

However, certain types and classes of development are not considered appropriate for neighbourhood planning—either because of their scale, their impacts or their complexity. These include most types of waste development, all minerals applications, all nationally significant infrastructure projects and development proposals which fall within Annex 1 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (e. g. oil refineries). These exclusions are set out in Schedule 9, section 61L, of the Localism Bill.

We have also taken a power in the Localism Bill to prescribe further types or classes of development which are not considered appropriate for neighbourhood planning.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to bring forward proposals to enable communities to hold referendums on industrial or commercial developments which require permission from a planning authority. [32085]

Robert Neill: Where an individual planning application is submitted for determination by the local planning authority, it will be for that authority to decide whether or not permission should be granted. In taking such decisions a local planning authority must have regard to the local development plan for its area (which will incorporate any relevant neighbourhood development plans) and any other material considerations. (It is unlikely that the fact that there has been a "yes" or "no" vote in a referendum on a specific development proposal would be a material consideration—i.e about the planning merits of an application—which the local planning authority could take into account). Individual planning applications would not be determined by referendum.

Local referendums on any issue should not be confused with referendums as part of the Localism Bill's neighbourhood planning provisions. Under these provisions, a community can bring forward a neighbourhood development order which permits certain types of development (e.g. for commercial development) in outline or full in their neighbourhood. A community referendum must be held into any neighbourhood development order.

Public Sector: Employment

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to reduce dependence of local areas on public sector employment; and if he will make a statement. [32268]

Robert Neill: In our White Paper 'Local Growth: Realising Every Place's Potential' Government set out a new approach to local growth that is based on decentralisation and localism. Top down targets will be replaced with incentives for local action, and regional agencies and strategies are being removed so local communities can set their own priorities. Local enterprise partnerships are coming on stream, reflecting natural economic geographies rather than imposed and artificial regional boundaries.

Some places have developed an over-reliance on public sector employment and we want to support them in the process of adjustment. That adjustment will involve a bigger role for the private sector, and the £1.4 billion Regional Growth Fund has been established to help achieve this in those places that are over-reliant on public sector employment.

Regional Planning and Development

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local planning authorities on regional spatial strategies since 25 November 2010. [30774]

Greg Clark: On 10 November there was a written ministerial statement and the chief planner wrote to all local planning authorities about regional strategies. These can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/localismbillplanning

A note on the status of the chief planner's letter in the light of current legal proceedings can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/letterabolitionregional

Social Rented Housing: Norfolk

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social houses have been built in *(a)* Norwich South constituency and *(b)* Norfolk in each year since 1997; and how many social houses he estimates will be built in (i) Norwich South constituency and (ii) Norfolk in each of the next two years. [31973]

Andrew Stunell: The available information, showing the number of new build affordable homes delivered for each local authority district in Norfolk, is provided in the table. This information is not collected by parliamentary constituency.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new build completions as supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2009-10, for example, a total of 1,220 affordable homes were provided in Norfolk through new building, acquisition and refurbishment.

The Department does not forecast levels of future house building as delivery will be determined by local housing plans.

New build affordable homes supplied by local authority district in Norfolk

	Breckland	*Broadland*	*Great Yarmouth*	*Kings Lynn and West Norfolk*	*North Norfolk*	*Norwich*	*South Norfolk*	*Total*
1997-98	200	140	30	80	70	60	20	590
1998-99	70	60	70	30	30	40	50	350
1999-2000	120	70	70	20	50	30	20	370
2000-01	30	60	0	30	50	100	40	300
2001-02	30	130	30	60	50	140	20	450
2002-03	50	50	20	40	0	60	90	310
2003-04	20	50	50	70	20	120	20	340
2004-05	90	60	20	70	140	180	10	560
2005-06	70	90	40	120	50	230	60	670
2006-07	50	110	20	110	80	240	150	760
2007-08	70	80	50	216	50	390	270	1,130

New build affordable homes supplied by local authority district in Norfolk

	Breckland	*Broadland*	*Great Yarmouth*	*Kings Lynn and West Norfolk*	*North Norfolk*	*Norwich*	*South Norfolk*	*Total*
2008-09	250	110	30	180	50	350	470	1,440
2009-10	240	80	40	170	40	170	230	960

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest 10 homes
Source:
Homes and Communities Agency; Local authorities

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce his plans for the future of the Generations Together grant. [30762]

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply.

The Generations Together grant was used to fund the demonstration intergenerational programme, Generations Together, which will cease in March 2011. After this date future intergenerational work will be a matter for local partners, who may wish to work with those local authorities who took part in the demonstration programme.

TREASURY

Annuities

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average change in the number of people purchasing an annuity from a provider other than their existing pension provider was in each year since the review of the Open Market Option commenced. [32578]

Mr Hoban: The Government do not collect data on purchasing of annuities. However, the Association of British Insurers has provided the following figures for the proportion of people purchasing an annuity from a provider other than their pension provider:

	Percentage buying from alternative provider	*Change from previous year*
2006	32	—
2007	37	+5
2008	35	-2
2009	36	+1
2010 (to Q3)	41	+5

Companies: Registration

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs takes to ensure that a company registered as dormant is not trading; and if he will make a statement. [32827]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs checks, on a risk basis, whether there is evidence that a company claiming to be inactive is actually active. These checks include reviewing Companies House records, other HM Revenue and Customs records, and third party information.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions HM Revenue and Customs initiated a request for a company to be struck off the Register of Companies in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [32828]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs has no record of initiating any request.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs requests information from banks on accounts held for UK registered limited companies for the purposes of comparison with lists of dormant companies; and if he will make a statement. [32829]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs can and does request information from banks in appropriate cases when checking whether a company has come within the charge to corporation tax.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to how many notices of intention to strike a company from the Register of Companies HM Revenue and Customs raised an objection in each tax year since 2007-08. [32858]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs objected to the following number of notices of intention to strike a company from the Register of Companies.

	England and Wales
2007-08	14,587
2008-09	50,917
2009-10	56,126

HM Revenue and Customs do not keep a central record in relation to the Register of Companies, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the five reasons HM Revenue and Customs has most frequently given in objection to the striking off of a company from the Register of Companies since 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [32862]

Mr Gauke: For reasons of taxpayer confidentially, HM Revenue and Customs do not give Companies House a reason for objecting to the striking off of a company from the Register of Companies. HM Revenue and Customs write to the company explaining why an objection has been made. The precise reasons can vary from cases to case. The most common reasons are that the company owes money to HM Revenue and Customs, that an inquiry is being conducted into the company's tax affairs, or that a Corporation Tax return is outstanding.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many notices of intention to strike a company from the Register of Companies HM Revenue and Customs received in the tax year *(a)* 2007-8, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [32863]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs received the following number of notices of intention to strike a company from the Register of Companies for England and Wales:

2007-08: 298,295

2008-09:331,968

2009-10: 426,730.

HM Revenue and Customs does not keep a central record of the number of notices of intention to strike a company from Register of Companies for Scotland or Northern Ireland received for these years.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many cases where HM Revenue and Customs raised objection to the striking off of a company by the Register of Companies was that objection acted upon in *(a)* 2007-8, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; in how many such cases was additional tax revenue raised as a result in each such year; and how much additional revenue was raised in each such year. [32864]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs keeps no central record of action taken by Companies House following an objection to the striking off of a company. Such objections might be made by several parties in relation to any proposal. HM Revenue and Customs keep no central record of the amount of tax protected as the result of objecting to the striking off of companies.

Consumer Protection and Markets Authority: Public Appointments

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals to give the Treasury Select Committee the power of veto over the appointment of the chief executive of the Consumer Protection and Markets Authority. [32812]

Mr Hoban: The process for selecting a chief executive-designate of the new CPMA has commenced. The successful candidate will join the Financial Services Authority (FSA) as a managing director and main board member until the CPMA is established, at which point they will take up their role as the head of the new organisation. The appointment will be made in line with the normal process for appointing FSA executives, which does not include a role for the Treasury Select Committee.

Corporation Tax

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies which submitted form CT41G Dormant Company Insert in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10 were granted dormant company status and were not asked to submit corporation tax returns; and how many other companies were granted exemption from filing corporation tax returns on the grounds that they claimed to be dormant companies in each such year. [32823]

Mr Gauke: The number of companies at the beginning of each tax year for which HM Revenue and Customs had not issued a notice to deliver a return of corporation tax is in the following table.

As at 1 April each year	*Number*
2007	589,923
2008	658,126
2009	838,370

This includes companies treated as inactive and newly incorporated companies that were not yet due to deliver a return.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a standard period of exemption from filing corporation tax returns was granted to companies which claimed to be dormant in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [32824]

Mr Gauke: There is no exemption from filing a tax return for Corporation Tax. HM Revenue and Customs reviews companies treated as inactive on a risk basis, and in all cases reviews companies that it has recorded as being inactive every five years.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many inquiries into the suspected abuse of dormant company status for corporation tax purposes were undertaken in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [32825]

Mr Gauke: Where HM Revenue and Customs suspects that a company that was treated as inactive has come within the charge to Corporation Tax but has not informed the Department, a notice requiring a return to be delivered is sent. The Department does not keep a central record of how many notices requiring a return are sent in such cases.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of penalties charged in respect of late submission of corporation tax returns in respect of accounting periods ending in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [32814]

Mr Gauke: The information is held in relation to account years running from 1 November to 31 October. The amounts, rounded to the nearest £100,000, were as follows:

November 2006 to October 2007: £191,100,000

November 2007 to October 2008: £232,200,000

November 2008 to October 2009: £207,700,000

November 2009 to October 2010: £327,600,000.

The following amounts were discharged as allowed by law or on an appeal in each of the four years:

November 2008 to October 2007: £91,400,000

November 2007 to October 2008: £51,600,000

November 2008 to October 2009: £198,700,000

November 2009 to October 2010: £225,900,000.

The discharged amounts relate to penalties charged in the year or in an earlier year.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of how many *(a)* CT41G and *(b)* CT41G Dormant Company Insert forms submitted to HM Revenue and Customs in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10 HM Revenue and Customs undertook an investigation. [32816]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs does not conduct investigations into CT41Gs or CT41G Dormant Company Insert forms as such. Checks are made, on the basis of risk, to provide assurance that companies that have not been required to deliver a return are not chargeable to corporation tax.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies which submitted HM Revenue and Customs forms CT41G in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10 also submitted form CT41G Dormant Company Insert in each such year. [32817]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs does not record this information.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many CT41G forms HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) sent to newly-formed companies in tax years *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and how many such completed forms HMRC received in each such year. [32818]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs sent the following number of forms CT41G:

	Number
2007-08	436,179
2008-09	333,224
2009-10	345,137

The number completed and returned is not recorded.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of corporation tax penalties waived in respect of *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [32819]

Mr Gauke: The information is held in relation to account years running from 1 November to 31 October. The amounts of penalties remitted, rounded to the nearest £100,000, were as follows:

November 2006 to October 2007: £35,000,000

November 2007 to October 2008: £42,300,000

November 2008 to October 2009: £89,600,000

November 2009 to October 2010: £88,000,000.

Amounts remitted are not formally waived and can be reinstated if new considerations come to light.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of penalties levied but unpaid in respect of late submission of corporation tax returns in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [32820]

Mr Gauke: Outstanding amounts charged and not discharged, remitted or paid, rounded to the nearest £100,000, were as follows:

31 October 2007: £237,300,000

31 October 2008: £338,700,000

31 October 2009: £248,500,000

31 October 2010: £228,100,000.

These unpaid amounts relate to penalties charged in the year or in an earlier year.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average duration was of an exemption from filing corporation tax returns granted to a company which claimed to be dormant in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [32822]

Mr Gauke: A company must deliver a return if it receives a notice from HM Revenue and Customs requiring it to do so. The Department issues notices to companies that it believes to be active, and thus within the charge to the tax because they are active. A company must inform the Department if it has become chargeable to corporation tax but has not received a notice requiring it to deliver a return. The period for which a company might not be active depends on the circumstances of the company.

HM Revenue and Customs could not provide information about the average duration for which it treats companies as inactive without disproportionate cost.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many corporation tax payers submitted a corporation tax return to HM Revenue and Customs in respect of an accounting period ending in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; how many of those declared profits giving rise to corporation tax liability in each such year; what the combined (i) monetary value of such profits and (ii) associated liability for corporation tax was in each such year; how many returns declared a loss in each year; what the combined monetary value of such losses was in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [32910]

Mr Gauke: No figures are available for *(c)* 2009-10 because corporation tax returns are submitted up to 12 months after the end of an accounting period.

Figures for the number of companies with chargeable profits and the amount of these profits along with the tax charge for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in table T11.3 on HMRC's website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/11-3-corporation-tax.pdf

The number of companies submitting a tax return in *(a)* 2007-08 is estimated at 1.68 million and in *(b)* 2008-09 is estimated at 1.83 million.

The number of returns with gross trading losses in *(a)* 2007-08 is estimated at 330,000 with an amount of £82.8 billion and in *(b)* 2008-09 is estimated at 390,000 with an amount of £161.8 billion.

Debts: EU Countries

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions his Department has had with its international counterparts on the sustainability of sovereign debt amongst countries in the Eurozone. [32851]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Departmental Buildings

David Tredinnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable has been set for the repair of the ground floor windows in his Department's building facing Parliament Square and Whitehall. [32428]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply as the windows that were damaged were in HM Revenue and Customs' office at 100 Parliament street.

Repairs to the windows are expected to commence in January 2011.

Departmental Overtime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on overtime for staff working in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's private office in each of the last five years. [28573]

Justine Greening: Staff overtime payments made since 2005-06 in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's private office are shown in the following table.

	Amount (£)
2005-06	21,611
2006-07	26,177
2007-08	23,307
2008-09	33,083
2009-10	31,724

Departmental Sponsorship

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies incurred on sponsorship in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [27528]

Justine Greening: Neither the Treasury nor the Royal Mint Advisory Committee has incurred any spending on sponsorship since 2002-03. Information on spending prior to 2002-03 is no longer available due to the introduction of a new accounting system at that time.

Disability Living Allowance

Lyn Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he has made an equality impact assessment of the likely effects of changes in disability living allowance. [31686]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

We are currently running a public consultation on the proposed changes to disability living allowance. The consultation seeks views on our proposals to inform the development of firm proposals. We are considering equality impacts as the policy develops and will produce an Equality Impact Assessment at the same time as the legislation passes through Parliament.

Fraud: Compensation

Nic Dakin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals for a compensation scheme for individuals who have experienced financial loss due to parties who have acted fraudulently or have changed legal identity. [26247]

Mr Hoban: The Government have no plans to propose such a scheme.

Housing Benefit

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his estimate of savings from reforms to tax credits and housing benefit have taken into account increases in housing benefit entitlement attributable to changes in tax credit entitlement; [30870]

(2) what plans he has to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* record changes to expenditure on housing benefit which is attributable to changes in his Department's budget for tax credits; [30871]

(3) what estimate he has made of the likely change in expenditure on housing benefit attributable to his proposed reduction in the proportion of childcare costs to be covered by the childcare element of working tax credit. [30872]

Mr Gauke: Full details of the savings from reforms to tax credits and housing benefit are available in the published document "Spending Review 2010 policy costings", available on HM Treasury's website at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

Linklaters

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what work his Department has commissioned from Linklaters in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value was of the contracts for such work in each such year. [25874]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury has commissioned the following work from Linklaters in the period from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 1010. HM Treasury has not commissioned work from Linklaters in the current financial year.

Financial year	*Advice*	*Monetary value (£000)*
2005-06	Advice in relation to Credit Guaranteed Finance	252
2006-07	n/a	0
2007-08	Advice in relation to Credit Guaranteed Finance	15
2008-09	Establishment of and advice to Infrastructure Finance Unit Limited	255
	Advice in relation to financial stability contingency planning	65
2009-10	Advice to Infrastructure UK	52

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 11 November 2010 concerning Ms K Chung. [32493]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs sent a reply to the right hon. Gentleman on my behalf on 23 December 2010 and they apologise for the delay in doing so.

National Savings and Investment Fixed Interest Savings Certificates

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the withdrawal of National Savings and Investment Fixed Interest Savings Certificates from the market is a temporary measure. [32376]

Justine Greening: National Savings and Investments (NS&I) expect Fixed Interest Savings Certificates to remain off sale for at least the rest of this financial year (end March 2011). Sales volumes in the first part of this year far exceeded those either anticipated or required by NS&I under their net financing target. NS&I continue to follow a policy of acting transparently and balancing the interests of their savers, the taxpayer and the stability of the wider financial services market. The position will be kept under regular review and sales will be resumed when NS&I can be confident that conditions will enable them to operate within and to their publicly agreed targets.

Non-domestic Rates: Rural Areas

Dr Poulter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of extending business rate relief to businesses in rural areas with poor broadband provision. [32334]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

We have no plans to provide a specific business rates relief for rural areas with poor broadband provision. However, we are bringing forward powers, through the Localism Bill, to allow local authorities to grant discounts on business rates bills, as they see fit.

North East England

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Ministers of his Department have visited the North East since their appointment; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose was of each such visit. [31785]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings in all parts of the country with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Pensions

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals for a pensions saving fund that would enable access to the sums accrued during *(a)* periods of unemployment and *(b)* other periods before retirement. [31867]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 20 December 2010]*: The Government are committed to a fair and sustainable pensions system which encourages pension saving and allows individuals appropriate flexibility to plan for their retirement.

Early access to private pension savings is an area the Government are keen to consider in this context. The Treasury published a call for evidence on 13 December, which follows the commitment in the Coalition Agreement to explore the potential to allow early access to pension savings.

The document seeks evidence from interested parties on the extent to which early access to pension savings may help encourage higher levels of retirement saving by giving increased flexibility to individuals, or help those facing certain instances of hardship, such as unemployment or repossession of their home.

The Government are also keen to understand the potential administrative burdens any reform may place on industry.

The call for evidence is open until 25 February 2011. Based on the responses received, the Government will then consider whether there is a case to develop a firm proposal in this area.

Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the business case for HM Revenue and Customs for outsourcing the collection of tax debts of the value of £10,000 and under; [31991]

(2) how many debt collection agencies have secured contracts with HM Revenue and Customs to collect tax debts; and what mechanisms are in place to regulate activities relating to the collection of tax debt. [31993]

Mr Gauke: The expanded use of debt collection agencies (DCAs) in 2010—and, as announced in the spending review, also now in subsequent years to 2015—builds on earlier work where HMRC successfully piloted the use of DCAs in 2009-10.

The pilot demonstrated that DCAs can be used cost-effectively and securely to collect debt on HMRC's behalf and without compromise to HMRC's high quality standards. HMRC subsequently published an evaluation report on the pilot—available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/cap-cap-pilot.pdf

During 2010-11 HMRC will use the services of four private sector DCAs drawn from an existing government framework contract. Contractual arrangements have not yet been finalised beyond 2010-11.

HMRC require DCAs working on its behalf to comply with strict codes of conduct and the contracts require that they maintain HMRC standards in relation to customer service, data security and professionalism. There is a robust audit and assurance process in place which builds on the experience gained during the 2009-10 pilot.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax debts recorded by HM Revenue and Customs were of the value of *(a)* £10,000 or under and *(b)* over £10,000 in the last five financial years for which figures are available. [31992]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not centrally collated and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: E-mail

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on the use of e-mail by those wishing to contact HMRC who are profoundly deaf and who indicate that they are prepared to enter into an agreement to indemnify HMRC against any breach of confidentiality arising from the use of e-mail. [32821]

Mr Gauke: In recognition of the value of e-mail contact to customers, HMRC has developed a range of structured and secure econtact solutions for use by all of its customers, including those who are deaf and hard of hearing. These solutions are only introduced where HMRC is certain about the authenticity of the person sending the e-mail and where there are strong controls around the data being sent. These restrictions apply even where the customer is prepared to accept the risk of a breach of confidentiality occurring.

Students: Loans

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the effect of student loan repayments, including the repayment of new loans, on the Government's cash requirement for each of the next 10 years under *(a)* the newly-proposed system for higher education funding and *(b)* its predecessor system; [31580]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effect of issuing student loans, not net of repayments, on the Government's cash requirement for each of the next 10 years under *(a)* his proposed system for higher education funding and *(b)* the present system. [31581]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

Using estimates of the gross cash outlay on student loans and graduate repayments supplied by my Department, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published its assessment in November of the effect on the Government's net cash requirement of all the student loans BIS expects to issue and the increase attributable to new arrangements in each of the next financial years until 2015-16. No estimates have been made beyond 2015-16 and none have been made of the Government's cash requirement excluding repayments since that is a measure of net spending. The following table reproduces the figures in the OBR's report. Since most repayments relate to loans made several years previously and students need not make any contribution until they have graduated and are earning over £21,000 under the new system, there would be no significant difference in repayments between the old and the new systems in the years covered by the OBR's report.

Impact of student loans on central Government net cash requirement

£ billion

	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
All student loans (cost of net outlay)	4.1	4.3	5.4	7.3	9.3	10.7
Effect of new policies	0.0	0.0	0.7	2.5	4.3	5.6

Tax Yields: Harlow

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the total tax receipts from Harlow constituency in each year since 2000. [32198]

Mr Gauke: Estimated income tax liabilities by parliamentary constituency for 2002-03 to 2007-08, based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, can be found in Table 3.15 'Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency' on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

Any inference from the information in table 3.15 should take into account the confidence intervals in table 3.15a 'Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency, Confidence Intervals'. Estimates for earlier periods are not available.

Information on income tax receipts and receipts from other taxes is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Taxation: Arts

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has made an assessment of the effect of withholding tax on creative industries at source on a territorial basis in the creative industries on *(a)* multi-territory licensing of copyright and *(b)* the competitiveness of the UK as a location for the creative industries; and whether he plans to have discussions with his EU counterparts on this issue; [32403]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the practice of withholding tax at source for copyright royalty income in the music and other creative industries; and what recent assessment he has made of the effects of this practice on the UK economy. [32404]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

No assessment has been made during this Parliament of the impact of withholding tax on the creative industries.

Withholding tax affecting UK creative industries is largely levied by other countries and any changes therefore require international agreement. In the EU this could involve significant extension to the interest and royalties directive, and the Government would have to weigh this against their commitment to no further transfer of sovereignty to Europe over the course of this Parliament.

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much revenue was generated from SA300 statement of account forms for amounts less than the administrative cost to HM Revenue and Customs of processing the form in the last five years; [32770]

(2) how much was spent by HM Revenue and Customs on processing SA300 statement of account forms for amounts less than the administrative cost of processing the form in the last five years; [32771]

(3) how many SA300 statement of account forms were processed for amounts less than the administrative cost to HM Revenue and Customs of processing the form in the last five years; [32772]

(4) what estimate he has made of the average cost to HM Revenue and Customs of processing a SA300 statement of account form. [32773]

Mr Gauke: The information is available only at disproportionate cost.

UK Banks: Ireland

Frank Dobson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from UK banks on the Government's response to the banking and credit situation in the Republic of Ireland. [32134]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 21 December 2010]*: The Government have various meetings with banks on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues. Consistent with previous practice the details of such discussions are not published.

VAT

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the distributional effect on each income decile of the population in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland of the change to the basic rate of value added tax. [32432]

Mr Gauke: Annex A of the Budget document sets out the impact of Budget measures, including the rise in the standard rate of VAT. Charts A1 and 2 show the impact of measures across the income distribution, in both absolute terms and as a proportion of income. Charts A3 and 4 set out the impact of the VAT rise alone across the expenditure distribution, in absolute terms and as a proportion of income. This analysis shows the impact across the UK. Lower level geographical disaggregations do not provide sufficiently robust results.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the likely *(a)* cost to and *(b)* time taken by small businesses to implement the proposed changes in the rate of value added tax. [32434]

Mr Gauke: The Impact Assessment published at June 2010 Budget includes information on *(a)* compliance costs to and *(b)* time taken by a typical small business of implementing the increase of VAT to 20% in January 2010.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_impact_assessments.pdf

VAT: Channel Islands

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the maximum monetary value eligible for low value consignment relief to £8; [29849]

(2) when he expects to make an announcement on the future of the low value consignment relief scheme applying to the Channel Islands. [29848]

Mr Gauke: As I told the House in my written answer to the hon. Member for Bromsgrove (Sajid Javid) on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 661W, the Government are actively reviewing the operation of low value consignment relief. In assessing the case for change, the Government will take into account the need to balance often conflicting considerations including the impact on consumers, UK businesses and Royal Mail and other parcel operators, as well as the overall fiscal position and the practicality and cost of enforcing any changes to the operation of the relief.

If it is concluded that changes to the operation of LVCR are desirable, I would hope to be in a position to make announcements by the time of the 2011 Budget.

Welfare Tax Credits

Miss Begg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent research he has commissioned on the link between tax credit taper rates and incentives to work. [32130]

Mr Gauke: The Government review new research and evidence on incentives to work on an ongoing basis, and uses this to inform policy development. A comprehensive review of such research has been prepared for the Commission on Reforming the Tax System for the 21st Century, chaired by Sir James Mirrlees, and can be found at the following address:

www.ifs.org.uk/mirrleesreview/reports/labour_supply.pdf

Similarly, HMRC publishes its research as part of its Research Report Series available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/reports.htm

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan and Iraq: Females

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in relation to *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [32589]

Mr Bellingham: The Government remain committed to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and subsequent related resolutions. The UK National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325—Women, Peace and Security was launched on 25 November 2010. A copy of the National Action Plan can be obtained from the House Library. It is also available to download from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/global-issues/conflict-prevention/women-peace-security-action-plan

We are taking a comprehensive approach to supporting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Afghanistan.

Our actions include: providing funding and visible political support to female Afghan MPs; providing support to ensure that National Security Strategy consultations include local women's groups and are set out in a specific country-level plan for UNSCR 1325 in Afghanistan; and providing funding and support to the Criminal Justice Task Force to ensure female prosecutors and judges receive high profile cases and can establish a sustainable career path. These and the other programmes we are undertaking in Afghanistan form part of the broader UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

In Iraq, we have undertaken a number of programmes in support of UNSCR 1325. For example, we have provided training to empower the Iraqi judiciary in dealing with sexual and gender-based violence and we have equipped women's centres which help to provide wide-ranging training and assistance to Iraqi women.

We hope to expand the number of specific plans for countries experiencing or emerging from conflict as we review the National Action Plan. Our goal is to fully mainstream the work of UNSCR 1325 across our diplomatic, defence and development activities.

Afghanistan: Human Rights

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to promote human rights in Afghanistan. [32378]

Alistair Burt: We continue to press for the Afghan Government to implement the national and international human rights legislation to which it has committed.

The UK has provided funding to the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. We have also provided financial support for the Human Rights Support Unit of the Afghan Ministry of Justice, which opened on 29 September 2010.

Afghanistan: Minority Groups

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Afghanistan on the treatment of religious minorities in that country. [32380]

Alistair Burt: We continue to remind the Afghan Government of its duty to abide by its national and international commitments on freedom of religion and belief and to respect the freedom of worship as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will initiate an inquiry into the reasons for the UK incursion into Helmand province in 2006. [31268]

Alistair Burt: The Government announced their first deployment of troops to Helmand in January 2006, as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) expansion to the south of the country. Since 2006, the UK's troop presence in Helmand has grown from an initial deployment of 3,150 to approximately 7,700 troops.

This Government remain committed to the international effort in Afghanistan. Our aim, along with that of other ISAF partners, is that the Afghan National Security Forces should be in a position to take the security lead across the whole country by the end of 2014. The role of UK and other international forces and their number will gradually change as this happens. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister is clear that that there will not be British troops in a combat role or in the numbers they are now in Afghanistan in 2015.

At the present time, there are no plans to initiate an inquiry into the reasons for the UK deployment to Helmand. It would be wrong to consider holding an inquiry while our troops are still risking their lives and while operations are ongoing.

Afghanistan: Prisoners

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of people imprisoned in Afghanistan for converting from Islam to other religions over the last three years. [32379]

Alistair Burt: We have received two reports during 2010 of the detention of individuals who have converted to Christianity from Islam. We continue to monitor these cases.

Afghanistan: Said Musa

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the imprisonment in Afghanistan of Said Musa. [32381]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of this case and we are working with the international community to monitor developments. We continue to remind the Afghan Government of its duty to abide by its national and international commitments on freedom of religion and belief.

Alliances

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of diplomatic, economic and military ties between North Korea, Iran, Venezuela, Cuba and the Russian Federation; and if he will make a statement. [32210]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are aware that there are ties between some of these countries. We have an interest in aspects of these relationships which relate to the Government's foreign policy priorities, in particular, counter proliferation, human rights, and economic development.

Given the number of countries included in this question and the broad areas of interest listed, it would not be possible to compile the information required to answer this question without incurring disproportionate cost.

Arms Trade Treaty

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to prepare for the second Preparatory Committee on the Arms Trade Treaty in February 2011; and which officials of which grades from his Department will attend the Preparatory Committee. [32559]

Alistair Burt: The UK continues to engage actively with international partners, representatives from civil society and the defence industry in preparation for the next Arms Trade Treaty Preparatory Committee meeting in February 2011. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is also funding a range of projects in support of the Arms Trade Treaty through its strategic programme fund. Our ambassador for Multilateral Arms Control and Disarmament at the UK Arms Control and Disarmament Mission in Geneva, John Duncan, will lead the UK delegation, supported by appropriate officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other Government Departments; the precise details of the full UK delegation will be finalised during January 2011.

Balkans: Politics and Government

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will invite the Prime Minister of Kosovo to talks in London to promote a settlement of stability in the Western Balkans. [32049]

Mr Lidington: The Government have no current plans to invite the Prime Minister of Kosovo to visit the UK. Parliamentary elections took place in Kosovo on 12 December and a new Kosovo Government has yet to be formed. The UK looks forward to supporting and working with the incoming Kosovo Government, once formed, in its effort to make further progress towards fulfilling Kosovo's European perspective. We continue to believe that a European future for Kosovo and all its neighbours is crucial for guaranteeing stability and prosperity in the Western Balkans.

BBC World Service: Diplomatic Service

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions his Department has recorded adverse comments from UK embassies and High Commissions in respect of the BBC World Service in the last five years. [30406]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) carries out an annual survey of its heads of mission on the effectiveness of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service in the countries to which they are accredited. Their comments are used for internal discussions of priorities both within the BBC World Service and between the World Service and the FCO.

Posts overseas have the opportunity to contribute to discussions between the FCO and the BBC World Service on the respective priorities and objectives of the two organisations. They may also comment at other times.

We do not keep a list centrally of all comments received about the BBC World Service, whether positive or negative. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Belarus: Politics and Government

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the treatment of supporters of democracy in Belarus; and if he will make a statement. [32630]

Mr Lidington: I am receiving regular updates from officials on the ground on the situation in Belarus. We issued statements on 20, 22 and 31 December 2010, strongly condemning the violence surrounding the presidential election, urging the Belarusian authorities to release those detained for politically motivated reasons and to ensure that all detainees are given access to proper medical care and legal representation. I met the Belarusian ambassador on 22 December to voice my grave concerns in person.

We have been vocal in advocating a tough EU response to events and encouraged the EU High Representative Baroness Ashton to issue a strongly worded joint EU-US statement, which was released on 23 December 2010. The UK, along with other EU member states, is looking at concrete steps which the EU can take to put pressure on the Belarusian authorities to release political prisoners.

British Indian Ocean Territory

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Mauritius on their claim to the Chagos archipelago. [32894]

Mr Bellingham: The UK values its bilateral relationship with Mauritius and remains keen to engage with Mauritius on a wide range of issues. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I met Prime Minister Ramgoolam on 3 June 2010 and I met Foreign Minister Boolell on 22 July 2010.

The offer of a third round of bilateral talks on the British Indian Ocean Territory has been on the table since July 2009 but has not, so far, been taken up by the Mauritian Government.

The UK has no doubt about its sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory which was ceded to Britain in 1814 and has been a British dependency ever since.

British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration his Department's consular directorate has given to the merits of the memorandum of understanding prepared by SAMM Abroad; and what response has been sent to SAMM Abroad on the memorandum. [32411]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I met with Eve Henderson, Director of Support and Murder and Manslaughter (SAMM) Abroad, on 13 October 2010 to discuss the support we provide to bereaved families, and wrote to her on

22 December 2010. I have been clear in our commitment to work for a joined up approach across the various agencies and Departments involved in responding to a death overseas. My officials are discussing with these agencies what is the best mechanism for ensuring that co-ordination and that bereaved families understand the role of all the relevant agencies in the UK. The proposals from SAMM Abroad are an important part of those discussions.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of incidences where a bereaved family has been informed through the media of the murder or manslaughter of a relative abroad before being contacted by representatives of his Department. [32415]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have not made such an estimate of this figure because of the considerable resources required to do so. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office works hard to deliver a high level of consular assistance to those involved in incidents abroad including contacting their relatives in the UK. Since 1 November, the assistance provided by Victim Support National Homicide Service is available to anyone in England and Wales if a family member or friend has been killed as a result of a crime abroad. We notify Victim Support within 24 hours of receiving information about a death.

Burma: Human Rights

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to address the human rights situation in Burma. [32377]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government remain deeply concerned over Burma's human rights record. We seek to raise the issue at every opportunity directly with the regime, with regional countries of influence and in the UN. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed Burma during his visits to China and India, and we continue to work to build international support for the UN to consider a Commission of Inquiry to investigate human rights abuses in Burma. At the UN General Assembly Third Committee, we pressed the regime to improve their human rights record through a toughly worded resolution and the UK will reiterate our concerns during the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of Burma.

Colombia: Human Rights

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the protection of the human rights of trades unionists in Colombia. [31083]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The safety of trade unionists in Colombia remains of great concern. Officials at our embassy in Bogota continue to visit individuals who are under threat and to make representations to the Colombian authorities in cases of violence or intimidation against trade unionists. We raise our concerns regularly with senior Colombian Ministers, and work with unions and employer organisations to strengthen labour relations in Colombia. We are working with the UN on a research initiative to help improve trade unionists' human rights protection and the development of positive labour relations.

We welcome President Santos' commitment to tackle human rights issues and the Colombian Government's recent announcements recognising that civil society, and specifically human rights defenders, have a vital role to play in overcoming the challenges that exist.

We should acknowledge this political will. However, it needs to translate into results on the ground. The UK government takes seriously its responsibility to assist in making this happen and continues to work with Colombia to this end.

Commonwealth Local Government Forum

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to strengthen links with local and national governments overseas as part of the biennial conference of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. [32782]

Mr Bellingham: The Government have undertaken to strengthen the United Kingdom's relationship with the Commonwealth and to ensure that the United Kingdom is at the centre of plans to reinvigorate this unique organisation. To achieve this we are working closely with the Commonwealth network and member states. We welcome the opportunity offered by the biennial conference to strengthen relations with key Commonwealth partners, including local governments.

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions his Department has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings his Department was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions his Department has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31921]

Alistair Burt: There have been no embargoed or non-embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 26 May 2010.

EU External Trade

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the letter from the Minister for Europe of 11 November 2010, on the European Union Bill, what his objectives in the EU are for achieving an open external market. [32633]

Mr Lidington: In the current economic climate it is important that the EU focus its efforts on delivering growth for its citizens. A key component to achieving the growth the EU needs will be the further opening of external markets. The Government will therefore encourage the EU to use its competence on trade to ensure greater openness globally and within Europe, focusing specifically on progressing the Doha Development Round, completing ambitious EU free trade agreements that deliver for EU (and UK) business, particularly those under negotiation with India, Canada, the Mercosur countries and Singapore, and improved market access in key markets, notably China.

Government Hospitality: Wines

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who is to take responsibility for the *(a)* selection and *(b)* purchase of Government wines under his proposals to end the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wines. [31090]

Mr Bellingham: The proposal outlined in the Cabinet Office announcement on Public Bodies Reform did not announce the abolition of the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine (GHACPW). The GHACPW will cease to be a registered non-departmental public body. The Government Hospitality wine cellar and the Committee's future role are under review.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what acquisitions the Government Wine Cellar has made since 1 November 2010. [31092]

Mr Bellingham: Since 1 November 2010 Government Hospitality has acquired the following English wines:

Camel Valley Bacchus Dry 2009
Chapel Down Chardonnay 2009
Chapel Down Pinot Blanc 2009
Three Choirs Willow Brook 2009
Denbies Cubitt Reserve 2006
Nyetimber Classic Cuvee Brut 2005.

Hungary: Anti-Semitism

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports on allegations of attempts by Hungarian diplomats to disrupt a talk at the Wiener Library in London on the rise of anti-Semitism and hostility to Roma in Hungary. [31038]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received no reports via the Diplomatic Protection Group or any other channel relating to Hungarian diplomats attempting to disrupt the recent presentation on anti-Semitism and the hostility to Roma at the Weiner Library.

Iran: Trials

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Iranian authorities on the recent trial of Mrs Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr Afif Maimi, Mr Saeid Rezaie, Mrs Mahvash Sabet, Mr Behrouz Tavakkoli and Mr Vahid Tizfahm. [32473]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have repeatedly expressed our strong concerns about the flaws in the trial of these seven members of the Baha'i community in Iran, and the harsh sentences handed down. I have raised their cases with the Iranian ambassador, and continue to call on the Government of Iran to review their case urgently, and to ensure that no-one in Iran faces imprisonment simply for practising their faith.

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Iranian authorities on the recent trial and sentencing of Mr Youcef Nadarkhani. [32796]

Alistair Burt: I am aware of the reports that Mr Youcef Nadarkhani has been sentenced to death. Our embassy has asked the Iranian authorities for clarification of the sentence and charges against Mr Nadarkhani. The UK is opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances. We will continue to urge the Iranian Government to guarantee freedom of religion to all its citizens, in line with its international obligations.

Ivory Coast: Elections

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings the UK diplomatic representative to the Ivory Coast has had with each presidential candidate; and what reports he has received of the conduct of the presidential election in all parts of that country. [32897]

Mr Bellingham: Our ambassador to the Ivory Coast met presidential candidates Laurent Gbagbo, Alassane Ouattara and Henri Konan Bédié on 31 October 2010, during the first round of voting. He also met Mr Gbagbo and Mr Ouattara on 28 November 2010 following the second round of voting. On 4 January 2011, the Political Counsellor from the embassy met President Ouattara at the Hotel Golf.

In line with his certification mandate from the United Nations, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Ivory Coast, Mr Choi Young-Jin, has reported on the conduct of the presidential elections. Mr Choi's report confirmed the results of the Independent Electoral Commission which declared Mr Alassane Ouattra as the winner of the election. International monitoring teams, including from the EU, also observed the election and reported overall satisfaction with the conduct of the vote.

Japan: Whales

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise at the next Antarctic treaty meeting the issue of compliance by the Japanese whaling fleet with Antarctic treaty provisions in the treaty area. [32305]

Mr Bellingham: Whaling is a matter for the International Whaling Commission (IWC), not the Antarctic treaty. It would, therefore, be inappropriate to raise this issue at Antarctic treaty meetings. Nonetheless, I can assure my hon. Friend that the Japanese Government are in no doubt that the UK considers Japan's lethal whaling for "scientific" research wholly unnecessary. We will continue to raise this issue within the IWC and bilaterally as appropriate.

Kashmir

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the Government's commitment to stand firm on human rights in all its bilateral relationships, as referred to in the coalition agreement, will inform his Department's policy on Kashmir. [32417]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made it clear that British values, including human rights, are central to UK foreign policy. In Kashmir, the UK continues to call for an improvement in the human rights situation on both sides of the Line of Control and for an end to external support for violence. UK funding supports human rights, conflict prevention and peace-building efforts on both sides of the Line of Control.

During Foreign and Commonwealth Office oral questions on 14 September 2010, I said

> "that the British Government work on, and devote resources to, assisting with conflict resolution in Kashmir, tackling human rights concerns and helping to build confidence on both sides of the line of control. With that confidence, we then continue to ensure that there is a dialogue with the Indian and Pakistan Governments, because the resolution of this long-standing situation is for them, taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people."—[*Official Report*, 14 September 2010; Vol. 515, c.728.]

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Indian, *(b)* Pakistani and *(c)* Kashmiri counterparts on the political situation in Kashmir; and if he will make a statement. [32425]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed regional issues including relations between India and Pakistan during recent meetings with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Qureshi and Indian Foreign Minister Krishna. Officials in our high commissions in Islamabad and New Delhi regularly discuss India-Pakistan relations, including Kashmir, with the Governments of Pakistan and India and with interlocutors in Indian and Pakistani-administered Kashmir.

The long standing position of the UK is that it is for Pakistan and India to find a lasting resolution to the situation in Kashmir, one which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. It is not for the UK to prescribe a solution or to mediate in finding one. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated this in the Foreign Affairs debate on 27 May 2010.

Kosovo: Elections

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports of fraud in the recent elections in Kosovo. [31592]

Mr Lidington: 297 complaints were submitted to the Kosovo Electoral Complaints and Appeals Panel in respect of the 12 December parliamentary elections in Kosovo. 136 complaints related to the campaign period and 171 to election day. All of the complaints were decided within the legal deadline (16 December). A limited number of complaints about fraud were upheld and the election will be re-run—in full or in part—in five municipalities on 9 January 2011. The Government welcome the prompt handling of the complaints procedure and the decisive action by the Kosovan Central Election Commission to annul results in the affected areas.

Kosovo: EU Enlargement

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of Kosovo's application to join the European Union following the results of the recent elections in that country. [31591]

Mr Lidington: Kosovo has not submitted an application for EU membership. But it is a member of the EU's Stabilisation and Association process and is therefore a potential candidate for membership.

The UK firmly believes that the future of Kosovo, and all the countries of the Western Balkans, is in the EU. The successful holding of Kosovo's first parliamentary elections since declaring independence in February 2008 underlines Kosovo's progress towards meeting the political criteria for EU membership.

The UK looks forward to supporting the incoming Kosovo Government, once formed, in its effort to make further progress towards fulfilling Kosovo's European perspective. This includes taking forward the reforms recommended in the European Commission's 2010 Progress Report on Kosovo.

Libya: Politics and Government

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received recent reports on the Libyan Government's programme to compensate those who had *(a)* property confiscated and *(b)* been illegally detained by that Government. [32342]

Alistair Burt: We have not received any information on this issue since reports in August 2010 that the Libyan Government were considering compensating some of those who had been wrongfully imprisoned.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of *(a)* rockets and *(b)* mortar bombs launched into Israeli territory from (i) Lebanon and (ii) Gaza since 1 October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [31651]

Alistair Burt: The Israel Defence Force (IDF) provides statistics for the number of rocket attacks from Gaza, but its figures are current only until 7 October 2010. The number of rockets reported fired in 2010 up until this date was 165. We are aware of further attacks since 1 October but are not able to confirm full details.

We condemn all rocket attacks. Such acts of terrorism are indiscriminate and frequently target civilian populations. We call on all sides to halt acts of violence and focus efforts on a negotiated solution.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* each Minister and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with (i) Arab states and (ii) the government of Israel on discrimination against Jewish communities in Arab states; what the outcomes were of such discussions; and if he will make a statement. [31652]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s overseas missions have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights in their host countries and routinely raise our concerns with host governments, including freedom of religion or belief when appropriate. The Government strongly condemn the continued prevalence of anti-Semitism around the world and promote policies to tackle this through a range of international organisations.

The Government's first update report on their work to take forward the recommendations of the 2006 All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism was laid before Parliament on 15 December.

The report has been produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government with input from eight other Government Departments, including the FCO.

The FCO continues to support the All-Party Parliamentary Group against Antisemitism and our efforts on work against anti-Semitism is given due attention in international organisations.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to Arab governments on securing an end to conflict with Israel since May 2010; what response he has received to such representations; and if he will make a statement. [31653]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, myself and other Foreign Office Ministers regularly engage with counterparts across the Arab world and in Israel on a broad range of subjects, including the middle east peace process (MEPP). Most recently I spoke to the Crown Prince of Bahrain about the MEPP on 30 November 2010.

Securing a two state solution, based on 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as the future capital of two states and with a fair settlement for refugees remains a foreign policy priority for my Government. This is important for Israelis, for Palestinians and for the international community including the UK.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the *(a)* missile capabilities of Hamas, *(b)* testing of long-range rockets by Hamas and *(c)* acquisition of high-specification anti-aircraft missiles by Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [31720]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of reports that Hamas continues to acquire and test a variety of weapons. We have long made it clear that the arming and funding of Hamas, and other Palestinian rejectionist groups, is unacceptable.

We recognise Israel's legitimate security needs. We have underlined the need for Hamas to end rocket attacks on Israel. We call on them to take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent representations he has received on recognition of the state of Israel as a Jewish state by the Palestinian Authority; what recent representations he has made to the Palestinian Authority on this issue; and if he will make a statement; [31712]

(2) if he will make it his policy to recognise the State of Israel as a Jewish state; and if he will make a statement. [31713]

Alistair Burt: We have received no such representations though we are, of course, aware that the Israeli Government have publicly called on the Palestinian Authority to recognise Israel as a Jewish state.

The UK does not formally recognise states as being any religion or ethnicity. It is self-evident that Israel is a profoundly Jewish country and has been ever since its foundation more than 60 years ago. All citizens of Israel should be treated equally regardless of religion or background.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken since September 2010 and *(b)* plans to take in 2011 to encourage (i) Palestinian reconciliation and (ii) acceptance of the Quartet Principles by all parties; what discussions he has had with his UN counterparts on such issues since September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [31715]

Alistair Burt: There is an urgent need for a two state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Since September we have continued to support those working to this end. We are disappointed that peace talks are currently on hold but will continue to work with the US, the parties to the conflict and our EU and UN partners to secure progress.

Clearly a negotiated solution will require a degree of consensus among both Palestinians and Israelis, and we will continue to encourage all interested parties to unite in the search for peace. It will also require determination to follow a path of negotiations, not to attempt to force the issue through violence or by creating facts on the ground. We will continue to insist that all parties abide by the Quartet principles.

North Korea: South Korea

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on relations between North and South Korea. [32192]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Senior officials have discussed North Korea's nuclear programme, and the recent escalation of tensions in the Korean Peninsula, with their US counterparts in New York and Washington, in particular since the events of 23 November 2010 when North Korean shelling killed four South Korean citizens.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Israel on settlements in the west bank. [32270]

Alistair Burt: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear, we are disappointed that Israel has not renewed the freeze on settlement construction and that peace talks are currently on hold. It is Britain's long-standing view that settlements are illegal under international law and an obstacle to peace. Our ambassador to Tel Aviv has made our views clear in the course of his discussions with the Government of Israel. We have also underlined our views to the Israeli embassy in London.

Palestinians: Economic Situation

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on levels of economic development in the west bank; and if he will make a statement. [31708]

Alistair Burt: We regularly monitor economic developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). The most recent reports from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, feeding into that of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, show that the west bank economy is doing well, though with significant reliance on external financial assistance.

We are encouraged by the progress the Palestinian Authority under Prime Minister Salam Fayyad's leadership has achieved in recent years and commend it for its sound economic management, security improvements and focus on encouraging investment.

We welcome the World Bank's assessment that

> "if the Palestinian Authority maintains its current performance in institution building and delivery of public services, it is well positioned for the establishment of a State at any point in the near future".

However, sustainable growth remains dependent on the lifting of restrictions to movement and access and a negotiated two state solution.

Peru and Colombia: EU External Trade

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to lay before Parliament the secondary legislation required for UK ratification of the EU Free Trade Agreement with Peru and Colombia. [31086]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Negotiations on the EU-Andean Free Trade Agreement were concluded in May 2010. The agreement is now going through legal scrutiny. The text will then be translated into all member state languages. After this stage European Council legal advisers will be able to determine officially whether the agreement is mixed competence. If it is, the agreement will need to be ratified by national Parliaments. This is the point at which the process of secondary legislation would begin. We would expect the UK ratification process to begin in late 2011 or 2012, and for it to take several months to complete the secondary legislation.

Russia: Politics and Government

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the level of compliance of the Russian Federation with its international obligations on the rule of law and democratic processes; and if he will make a statement. [32908]

Mr Lidington: The Government support President Medvedev's focus on the need to strengthen the rule of law and improve democratic processes in Russia, as part of his modernisation agenda. We encourage Russia to play an active part in a rules-based international system, and support Russia's application for membership of the World Trade Organisation.

The Government's assessment of Russian compliance with their international obligations on the rule of law and democratic processes will be contained within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Command Paper on Human Rights, due to be published in March 2011.

UK Membership of EU

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the letter from the Minister for Europe of 11 November 2010, on the European Union Bill, for what reasons his Department believes that the present terms of UK membership of the EU are in the national interest. [32632]

Mr Lidington: There are many things about the EU we would like to change. However, membership of the EU gives UK business full access to the world's most important trading zone, comprising 500 million consumers, without the barriers of customs or tariffs. This is of great importance to the UK's prosperity. 10% (3.5 million) of UK jobs are reliant on exports to EU member states, the beneficial effect of EU trade on UK households is estimated at between £1,100 and £3,300 per year, UK exports to member states are worth more than £200 billion, and EU Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) comprises 49% of overall FDI to the UK. Under the present terms of membership the UK plays a strong and active role in influencing and shaping developments within the EU, allowing us to further goals essential to the national interest, such as strengthening and expanding the single market, delivering growth, and promoting a resource efficient, low carbon EU economy. The European economic area (EEA) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members, in contrast, have to contribute to the EU budget without being able to negotiate the detail and content of EU legislation, and without receiving benefits such as the exemption from customs requirements and costs.

In addition, EU membership gives the UK better leverage and negotiating power on the global stage, allowing us to better achieve our international objectives on issues such as freer international trade, conflict prevention, stabilisation, climate change, human rights and development. There are also wide-ranging benefits for UK individuals, such as the right to study and work within the EU, and to receive free or reduced cost health care on temporary visits within EU member states.

Venezuela: Politics and Government

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Venezuela on political pluralism in that country; and if he will make a statement. [32209]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have not made any representations to the Government of Venezuela on political pluralism.

The National Assembly elections of September 2010 in Venezuela resulted in 10 political parties winning seats. The EU High Representative, speaking for the European Union, welcomed the participation of all political forces in the country and the return to multiparty representation in the National Assembly. Our embassy in Caracas closely follows the political developments in Venezuela, including quality of democracy, and monitors developments closely.

Welsh Language

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department last published a Welsh language scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Welsh Language Act 1993; and at which web addresses such schemes can be accessed in *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* English. [31165]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, along with other government departments, is not considered a "public body" under the provisions of the Welsh Language Act (section 21), meaning that it is not required to prepare Welsh language schemes. No such scheme has therefore been published.

Consular directorate provides the summary of its guide to consular services in the Welsh language as a PDF on the main FCO website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/welsh-summary

A hard copy of this summary can be provided on request.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Morocco on the conditions of Saharawi people in the occupied Western Sahara. [32895]

Alistair Burt: I raised the issue of Western Sahara during my visit to Morocco in December 2010. During our discussions, I urged the Government of Morocco to consider the benefits of a human rights monitoring presence on the ground as the best way to ensure a balanced picture of conditions in the disputed territory.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 11 January 2011

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 740, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, how many contracts Joint Force Support manage in Afghanistan; which organisations those contracts are with; and if he will make a statement. [31893]

Nick Harvey: Joint Force Support currently manages 44 contracts in Afghanistan. I am withholding the names of the companies as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interests and would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of pallets, *(b)* tonnage of supplies and *(c)* number of flights to Afghanistan taken by (i) RAF transport and (ii) leased transport aircraft in each of the last six years. [32339]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not lease aircraft, ie rent them to be flown by MOD pilots, but rather charters with private companies to fly on the MOD's behalf. The number of pallets, weight of supplies (in tonnes) and number of flights taken by RAF and civilian chartered aircraft to Afghanistan over the last six calendar years are as follows:

	RAF aircraft			*Civilian leased aircraft*		
	Number of pallets	*Weight of supplies (in tonnes)*	*Number of flights*	*Number of pallets*	*Weight of supplies (in tonnes)*	*Number of flights*
2005	890	2,579	144	0	0	0
2006	2,368	6,572	394	1,652	3,792	116
2007	3,268	7,550	513	3,258	8,678	234
2008	3,072	6,709	538	4,113	8,817	266
2009	3,654	8,225	619	4,756	10,675	461
2010	2,792	6,971	533	3,756	9,568	443

The figures provided include direct flights from the UK to Afghanistan as well as those via interim destinations, such as Cyprus.

AWE Aldermaston

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the *(a)* work programme and *(b)* budget of AWE Aldermaston of changes to the timetable for the replacement of Trident; and if he will make a statement; [32535]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implications for the Hydrus project at AWE Aldermaston of changes to the timetable for the replacement of Trident. [32536]

Peter Luff: Work is ongoing to examine the effects of the outcome of the strategic defence and security review on the work programme and budget of the Atomic Weapons Establishment. This includes the effect of changes to the timetable for the replacement of Trident.

With regard to the Hydrus project, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 575W, to the hon. Member for Cambridge (Dr Huppert).

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people employed in the arts sector in each of the borough areas of Greater London; and if he will make a statement. [32412]

Mr Vaizey: This Department does not hold this information. Arts Council England holds information for the number of arts sector staff, in each employment category, in their Regularly Funded Organisations (RFOs). The 2009-10 Greater London figures supplied are in the table.

Number

Local authority	*Permanent full-time*	*Permanent part-time*	*Contractual*
Barnet	26	9	166
Brent	24	44	443
Camden	312	171	1,396
City of London	403	31	658
Ealing	5	3	2
Enfield	15	1	67
Greenwich	16	8	374
Hackney	170	161	1,129
Hammersmith and Fulham	84	53	859
Haringey	4	17	29
Hounslow	55	17	121
Islington	316	191	1,732
Kensington and Chelsea	64	30	602
Lambeth	929	322	4,003
Lewisham	41	17	357
Merton	14	22	96
Newham	42	35	336
Redbridge	7	1	26
Southwark	221	213	1,119
Tower Hamlets	147	111	1,754
Waltham Forest	8	1	1,962
Wandsworth	61	30	360
Westminster	1,293	553	3,832
Total	4,257	2,041	21,423

Broadband

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what interim targets he has established in support of his target for high speed broadband connectivity in 2015. [32189]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has set no specific interim target. Broadband Delivery UK is assessing current broadband provision at community level across the UK in its work to deliver the coalition Government's objective to facilitate deliver the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

Rupert Murdoch

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with (i) Rupert Murdoch, (ii) James Murdoch, (iii) Rebekah Wade, (iv) individuals representing News International, (v) individuals representing News Corporation and (vi) individuals representing BSkyB since 4 November 2010. [32214]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* Since 4 November 2010, neither Ministers nor officials in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have formally met Rupert Murdoch, James Murdoch, Rebekah Wade, any other individuals representing News International, or individuals representing News Corporation.

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport met representatives from BSkyB on 29 November to discuss local television matters. On 4 November an individual from BSkyB attended my roundtable on digital content.

TRANSPORT

First Capital Connect

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of compliance of First Capital Connect with its franchise agreement. [32445]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport officials monitor First Capital Connect's performance against the contract on a four-weekly basis. This review includes operational performance and the delivery of committed obligations.

Midland Main Line: Standards

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1001W, on the midland main line: standards, what elements comprise the package of works approved in the spending review to allow increased line speeds on the Midland Main Line by 2013. [32838]

Mrs Villiers: The detail of the works and locations where line speeds will be increased on the midland main line is set by Network Rail and is published in their 'CP4 Delivery Plan 2010 Enhancement Programme', available from their website.

Railways: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he received the interim report of Sir Roy McNulty's value for money review; and for what reasons it was not published prior to 7 December 2010. [30578]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport received a draft of the rail value for money study interim submission in September 2010 to help inform its spending review decisions. The document was then published on 7 December 2010, to coincide with the Government's announcement on franchising and the future structure of the rail industry—the report provides important context for that announcement.

Railways: Overcrowding

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to reduce the level of overcrowding on the rail network in *(a)* London, *(b)* non-metropolitan urban areas and *(c)* metropolitan areas. [25820]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have confirmed their commitment to implement the Crossrail and Thameslink projects, which will significantly increase rail capacity in and through London and the south-east.

In total the Government will deliver more than 2,100 new rail carriages on to the network by May 2019, which will increase the fleet by around 1,850 vehicles net. An announcement on where additional carriages will be located will be made after negotiations with train operators have concluded.

The Department for Transport has entered into agreements with the following operators to enhance the size of their fleets so that more or longer trains can operate in future: Southern; Southeastern; National Express East Anglia; First Capital Connect; London Midland; Northern; First Great Western; and East Midlands Trains. Additional carriages have also been ordered for West Coast main line services.

In parallel with this, a number of platform lengthening schemes will be delivered over the coming years enabling longer trains to be run. Details of the specific plans are available from the Network Rail website at:

www.networkrail.co.uk

We also remain committed to the High Speed 2 Project to the west midlands and the north of England. This will reduce journey times, provide more capacity and relieve existing lines.

Railways: Severe Weather

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with train operators serving Brighton on the level of service provided during the recent severe weather; and if he will make a statement. [32315]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport officials were in regular contact with Southern Railway during the adverse weather. This dialogue has included how trains became stranded and what lessons are being learned. Additionally, both I and my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, have discussed the issues directly with senior managers at Southern.

As announced in his statement of 22 October 2010, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, commissioned David Quarmby CBE to conduct an audit of the performance of transport systems during the extreme weather and of the implementation of the recommendations in his report of October 2010. The findings of this audit were published on 21 December 2010, and emphasised the more severe effect of the weather this winter compared with the previous two winters. The rail industry is being asked to formulate proposals on contingency timetables, improve information to passengers, and examine technological improvements. Network Rail and operators will be asked to focus on their post-winter review of operational performance, as recommended in the audit.

The Secretary of State has also asked the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser to update what our planning assumption should be for future severe winter weather.

Railways: Travel Information

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the processes in place to inform passengers about disruption to rail services. [29271]

Mrs Villiers: An independent review of how our transport systems coped with the last two winters was published on 22 October 2010. The review, commissioned by Transport Ministers and chaired by transport expert, David Quarmby CBE, made a number of recommendations to improve transport resilience during winter conditions for the future.

The Secretary of State asked David Quarmby CBE to audit the implementation of the recommendations in this report to assess the extent to which measures have been consistently implemented, and whether there are any lessons that could be learnt from the recent severe winter weather. The effectiveness of communication with passengers was a key area on which the audit was asked to focus. The audit was published on 21 December 2010 and recommendation six is:

> "The rail industry should continue the development and improvement of the systems for managing contingency timetables and for supporting, feeding and making more resilient the downstream information systems for passengers, having particular regard to the effectiveness of work-arounds needed when circumstances require."

The Department for Transport supports this recommendation.

The Secretary of State wrote to train operators on 2 December to remind them of their obligations with regard to information to passengers during periods of service disruption and to inform them that the Office of Rail Regulation would be monitoring performance. Additionally the Secretary of State and I chaired telephone conferences with senior rail industry officials on 15 December to discuss their response to the severe weather, emphasising passenger information as a priority.

Railways: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on their assessment of rail transport requirements in Wales; and what the process is for taking account of the assessment in the high level output specification for 2012. [31608]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport Ministers have discussed cross border rail links, including electrification, with the Deputy First Minister. Welsh Assembly Government officials work with the Department preparing for the next high level output specification for the period 2014-19.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the high level output specification for rail in Wales. [31610]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport's high level output specification for the period 2009-10 to 2013-14 was issued in July 2007. The Secretary of State and I have discussed major rail projects with the Deputy First Minister and Department officials meet regularly with Welsh Assembly Government rail officials and Network Rail. The next high level output specification for Great Britain as a whole covering the period 2014 to 2019 is expected to be issued in 2012.

Sea Rescue

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the criteria used to determine the coastguard stations his Department has proposed for closure and the reasons why such criteria were not included in the consultation document 'Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century'. [32859]

Mike Penning: The proposed locations of Maritime Operations Centres and sub-centres are based on a range of operational and value for money factors which are outlined in full on pages 22 and 23 of the consultation document 'Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century'.

As part of this consultation the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has asked for comments and supporting evidence on any factors relevant to these choices.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how coastguard staff will receive improvements in remuneration following the implementation of proposals in his Department's consultation document. 'Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century' and the reasons why detail on the proposed improved remuneration were not published in that document. [32860]

Mike Penning: The proposals for a modernised coastguard service envisages a higher skilled, higher paid but reduced work force operating in fewer locations. It should be noted that these are currently only proposals which are subject to public consultation and no final decisions will be made until this process is complete. It would therefore not be appropriate to outline such detailed information at this stage. Once a final decision is made the remuneration for the new roles in the modernised coastguard service will then need to be negotiated with the appropriate trade unions.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to take steps to ensure the knowledge of the local coastline held by coastguard officers at the stations proposed for closure is replicated in his Department's proposed new structure for coastguard services. [32861]

Mike Penning: It is the aim of the proposals on the modernisation of the coastguard that local geographical knowledge will be retained and improved principally in the new management structure of the coastguard rescue service. The coastguard rescue teams will continue to be the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) dynamic link to local coastal communities. The existing centres, which manage many hundreds of miles of coastline, already are increasing use of technology such as global mapping and information services as well as satellite imagery. In the proposed modernised coastguard service the MCA would maximise and standardise such innovation, provide a 24/7 provision from within coastal communities and provide appropriate training. The MCA will also maintain its current strong working relationships with partner search and rescue organisations such as the RNLI, in which considerable local knowledge and expertise reside.

Sea Rescue: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* local authorities in Scotland and *(b)* the Scottish Executive on the proposed closure of coastguard stations in Scotland. [32525]

Mike Penning: Maritime safety is a reserved matter for the UK Government.

The consultation I launched on 16 December is an opportunity for all UK local authorities, and the devolved Administrations, to consider their views and respond to the proposals we have made. I would encourage them to do so.

Southeastern Trains: Vacancies

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Southeastern trains on filling staff vacancies. [32902]

Mrs Villiers: I have not had discussions with Southeastern regarding the filling of staff vacancies. I expect Southeastern to use careful judgment to ensure sufficient staff are available to deliver the outputs required under its franchise agreement.

Under the terms of its franchise agreement, Southeastern is contracted to deliver specific outputs and my officials meet with Southeastern on a four-weekly basis to review its performance.

Train Operating Companies: Severe Weather

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions he had with train operating companies during the winter weather of November and December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [29626]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport officials have been in regular contact with franchised train operating companies during the recent winter weather to understand the extent of the problems experienced and operators' plans to restore normal operations.

The Secretary of State and other Ministers have also discussed the issues of severe winter weather with operators, and with relevant Network Rail managers by teleconference and at regular meetings to discuss rail performance.

On 2 December 2010, the Secretary of State wrote to train operating companies to remind them of their obligations in respect of provision of accurate information to customers in the event of disruption to service.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equality Act 2010

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities when she plans to make a decision on the implementation of dual discrimination provisions of the Equality Act 2010. [32534]

Lynne Featherstone: We are considering how to take forward the dual discrimination provisions of the Equality Act 2010 in the best way for business and others with rights and responsibilities under the Act.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Miss Begg: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps the Government Equalities Office is taking to implement its obligations arising from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in respect of *(a)* Article 5 on Equality and Non-discrimination, *(b)* Article 6 on Women and Disability and *(c)* other Articles of that Convention. [32037]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) takes its obligations under the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) very seriously, recognising the commitment that Government have made to equality of rights and improving outcomes for disabled people.

In their equality strategy, 'Building a Fairer Britain', published on 2 December 2010, the Government committed to address the causes of inequality and promote equal opportunities for all. The strategy is available in alternative formats. It includes addressing the specific barriers experienced by disabled people, working closely with the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) which leads on this topic.

For example, the GEO is working closely with the Cabinet Office and the Office for Disability Issues to take forward the Government's commitment to introduce extra support for disabled people who want to become MPs, councillors or other elected officials. In drawing up proposals, we have taken account of the evidence set out by the cross-party Speakers Conference and involved the expertise of disabled people and disabled organisations.

The GEO works across Government to promote equality and leads on equality legislation. The Equality Act 2010 provides protection from discrimination and harassment for people with protected characteristics which include gender and disability. We will introduce a new public sector Equality Duty in 2011 and we are working closely with ODI on this: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Minister for Disabled People (Maria Miller) on 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 344W.

The equality strategy also commits the UK to set a good example through our implementation of UN conventions on equality and periodic reporting, including UNCRPD. The UK Government will report to the UN in July 2011 setting out how implementation has been achieved across Government. GEO officials are working with officials at ODI in preparing the report.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Departmental Telephone Services

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, for what reason the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) proposes to operate its telephone enquiry service between the hours of 1pm and 5pm on weekdays; for what reason no telephone enquiry service is to be provided before 1pm; what the cost to IPSA was of operating the system under the existing hours; what estimate IPSA has made of the cost of operating the system under the new hours; and if he will make a statement. [32917]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated 6 January 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for what reason the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) proposes to operate its telephone enquiry service between the hours of 1pm and 5pm on weekdays; for what reason no telephone enquiry service is to be provided before 1pm; what the cost to IPSA was of operating the system under the existing hours; what estimate IPSA made of the cost of operating the system under the new hours.

The new operating hours for the telephone enquiry service are being introduced in order to provide a more effective service to users by concentrating the available resources during the peak period for demand between 1pm and 5pm. IPSA receives between 150 and 200 calls per day, and monitors demand for its telephone advice service carefully. It is intended that, by concentrating resources to the busiest period, it will be possible to answer calls more promptly.

Our aim in doing this is to provide a more speedy and cost-effective service to MPs and their staff.

The cost of the current service is based on staff costs for 4 dedicated team members; the revised service will be based on 7.5usb members of staff available between 1pm and 5pm.

Members: Allowances

Mr Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 856W, on Members: allowances, if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will arrange to place in the Library a copy of the correspondence. [32524]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated 6 January 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking, pursuant to the Answer of 16 December 2010, Official Report, column 856W, on Members: allowances, if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will arrange for a copy of the correspondence to be placed in the Library. I can confirm that a copy of the correspondence has been placed in the Library.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the average time taken by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to process claims for rental payments was in the latest period for which figures are available; what target time has been set for the processing of such claims; what the reason has been for the time taken to process such claims; and if he will make a statement. [32916]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated 6 January 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average time taken by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to process claims for rental payments was in the latest period for which figures are available; what target time has been set for the processing of such claims; what the reason has been for the time taken to process such claims.

IPSA does not monitor the time taken to process rental claims independently of other claims. IPSA has a target of processing 95% of all claims within 12 working days, where appropriate evidence has been provided. If property has not been registered, or insufficient evidence has been supplied, the time taken to process a claim may be extended. During November 2010 - the latest period for which figures are available - 89.81% of claims were processed within 12 working days. This represents 13,156 out of a total of 14,648 claims received.

The average time taken to process a claim during November was 7.33 working days.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on methods of tackling the spread of bovine TB which do not involve culling badgers, including vaccination, in the last three years. [32558]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has a wide-ranging bovine TB research programme which includes:

the development of a vaccine for bovine TB (for potential use either in cattle or badgers);

developing improved diagnostic techniques (both for TB in cattle and badgers);

epidemiological studies on factors influencing the prevalence and persistence of the disease in cattle and wildlife;

investigating transmission routes between and within species;

investigating risk factors contributing to the development of the disease in cattle, and;

economic analyses of TB control strategies.

A full list of current commissioned research projects can be found on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/tb/documents/current-research-projects.pdf

A list of completed and evaluated research projects is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/tb/research/projects.htm

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps her Department has taken to tackle the spread of bovine TB. [32915]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has continued to maintain a comprehensive and risk based TB surveillance programme through on farm testing of cattle and inspection of cattle carcases at slaughterhouses. To minimise the risk of disease spread, movement restrictions are applied (on cattle herds) as soon as a TB affected animal is identified or a TB test becomes overdue. We are also continuing to fund a wide ranging research programme, which includes developing vaccines, improving diagnostic tests and increasing our understanding on how TB spreads.

The public consultation on 'The Government's approach to tackling the disease and consultation on a badger control policy' closed in December 2010. We received a large number of responses, which we are considering carefully. We plan to publish the Government's response alongside a balanced and comprehensive TB eradication programme for England in February 2011.

Flood Control

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect on the food supply chain of the adequacy of existing flood defence provision. [32364]

Richard Benyon: It is a priority in the DEFRA business plan to help to enhance the resilience and competitiveness of the whole food chain, including farms and the fish industry, to ensure a secure, healthy and sustainable supply of food. Britain enjoys a high level of food security as a stable, developed trading nation with a very diverse supply base. We continually review potential risks to food security. Agricultural benefits are appropriately valued and reflected within flood and coastal erosion risk management appraisal and prioritisation systems.

Nappies: Waste Disposal

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to encourage the use of reusable nappies. [32127]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency report, "An updated lifecycle assessment study for disposable and reusable nappies (2006)", states that it is not clear whether disposable or reusable nappies are better for the environment. The report shows that the relative benefits for reusable nappies are largely driven by how they are laundered. The Government believe that parents should determine which type of nappy is most suitable for their own circumstances.

Public Footpaths

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had with local authorities on steps to ensure that footpaths are kept open and accessible. [32509]

Richard Benyon: We have had no separate discussions with local highway authorities, who are responsible for the management of public rights of way including footpaths. It is for them to decide how to maintain the access network in their area.

Authorities have a duty to assert and protect the rights of the public as to the use and enjoyment of public rights of way and the Government expects local highway authorities to meet their statutory duties and for local people to hold them to account.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on proposals to ensure that footpaths are kept open and accessible; and if she will make a statement. [32510]

Richard Benyon: We regularly receive informal representations from stakeholders, local access forums and the general public on ensuring public rights of way including footpaths are kept open and accessible.

Recycling

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps her Department is taking to encourage recycling; [32844]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to encourage waste prevention. [32845]

Richard Benyon: The Government are committed to improving the way in which we manage our waste and are currently conducting a fundamental review of waste policies. This is considering how best to ensure that we do more to prevent waste from occurring in the first place, and continue to increase recycling rates above and beyond the progress made to date. Preliminary findings from the review will be published in May.

Waste Disposal: EU Law

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from which date the waste hierarchy in the revised Waste Framework Directive will apply in the UK. [32843]

Richard Benyon: The transposition and implementation of the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) are devolved matters. I anticipate that regulations transposing the directive in England will be laid before Parliament later this month. I understand that it is also anticipated that transposing regulations will be laid separately before the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly later this month. In each case the date of implementation of the transposing regulations is dependent on the conclusion of the respective parliamentary processes.

Waste Management

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the relative *(a)* financial and *(b)* environment benefits of (i) waste prevention and (ii) recycling. [32126]

Richard Benyon: The financial and environmental benefits of waste prevention or recycling will be dependent on the individual waste stream under consideration, and the source of that waste. As a general principle, it is better both financially and environmentally to prevent waste from being produced rather than having to recycle or dispose of waste.

We are able to calculate the gross environmental benefits of preventing waste for a range of materials. However, waste prevention covers a wide range of actions and measures. The costs of measures taken to prevent waste are highly variable, and so it is not appropriate to establish a single figure for the net economic benefit of waste prevention.

The Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP) is currently undertaking a project to quantify the environmental and economic impacts of reusing products. When completed in spring 2011, this, information can then be assessed against the environmental impact of recycling.

Estimates exist of the relative merits of waste prevention and recycling for food waste. WRAP estimates that the greenhouse gas savings from food waste prevention are 10 times greater than composting or anaerobic digestion.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the minutes of each meeting of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs in the last two years. [32611]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 10 January 2011]*: It is for the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) to determine how and when to publish the minutes of its meetings. I understand the minutes of meetings are published after they have been approved at the subsequent meeting. The minutes available for the last two years can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/acmd/council-meetings/

Crime: Overseas Companies

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will bring forward legislative proposals to require UK companies convicted of transnational financial crimes in UK courts to make restitution to the population of the country in which the crime was committed; [32698]

(2) if she will bring forward legislative proposals to provide that as a consequence of a conviction in a UK court of a UK company for an offence committed in another jurisdiction, restitution shall be made to the population of that country by the company convicted; and if she will make a statement. [32769]

James Brokenshire: The UK can already share the proceeds of transnational financial crime with other countries without the need for further legislation. Asset sharing and repatriation following confiscation can be made administratively on a case by case basis guided, where relevant, by provision in international agreement. Article 14 of the UN convention against transnational organized crime and article 57 of the UN convention against corruption provide that confiscated money can be paid to other countries as compensation or restitution to the victims of such crimes. Where necessary, prosecutors and the courts can also explore alternative methods of transferring money if confiscation following conviction is not an option in any individual case.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether she plans to make changes to the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) regime following the completion of the first phase of the CRB review; [32257]

(2) what her policy is on reducing the administrative burden in respect of criminal record checks by allowing employers to share Criminal Records Bureau information; [32258]

(3) when she expects the first phase of the Criminal Records Bureau review to be completed. [32259]

Lynne Featherstone: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 77-78WS. This statement announced the terms of reference for the review of the Criminal Records Regime and the Vetting and Barring Scheme. The review is due to report early in 2011.

The review will look at scaling back the use of systems involving criminal records to common sense levels and the Government will thoroughly consider the findings of the review before deciding what action to take.

DNA: Databases

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to issue guidance to chief constables on the use of their discretion to remove records from the DNA database for the purposes of ensuring consistency of practice. [32463]

James Brokenshire: The Government are committed to adopting the protections of the Scottish model for DNA retention. In particular, we are examining whether the provisions of section 23 of the Crime and Security Act 2010 should be brought into force. This would empower the National DNA Database Strategy Board to issue binding guidance to chief police officers on the types of case in which deletion would be appropriate.

We will bring forward our detailed proposals shortly.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to remove and destroy records associated with false or wrongly recorded names on the DNA database. [32465]

James Brokenshire: A number of procedures carried out by police forces, forensic suppliers and the National Policing Improvement Agency's (NPIA) National DNA Database (NDNAD) Delivery Unit are in place to ensure that information is recorded as accurately as possible on the NDNAD. These procedures are designed to ensure that, as far as possible, errors are not included on the database in the first place, rather than rectifying them once the profile has been loaded. The procedures include checking the identity of a person from whom a DNA sample is taken against an identity established through fingerprinting.

If any irregular record comes to the notice of the NDNAD Delivery Unit, the record is suspended on the database pending an investigation. The outcome of which is that the record may be re-instated unchanged, amended or deleted.

The NDNAD Data Reconciliation Team (DRT) has access to both the Police National Computer (PNC) and the NDNAD. The team carries out checks to ensure that details held on the two databases are properly reconciled and highlight sampling and administration errors that have led to a record being loaded to the NDNAD with incorrect demographic information (e.g. name, sex, date of birth).

One area of the team's work is to routinely monitor newly-loaded profiles to identify two or more matching DNA profiles shown on different PNC records. The team liaises directly with police forces where replicates have been identified and supports them to resolve any issues. This allows the Police Service to merge and consolidate their information on the individuals who have previously provided incorrect information by updating the appropriate PNC records.

Domestic Violence: Finance

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department allocated to *(a)* tackling domestic violence and *(b)* providing support to victims of domestic violence in each year since 2005. [31066]

Lynne Featherstone: Where funding is allocated to tackling domestic violence this includes support for victims:

2005-06: over £5.5 million

2006-07: over £3.8 million

2007-08: over £5.85 million

2008-09: over £5.4 million

2009-10: over £6 million

2010-11: over £6.9 million.

For the financial years 2008-10 a proportion of the funding identified may have also covered sexual violence.

Human Trafficking

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the level of trafficking into the UK for the purposes of *(a)* forced labour and *(b)* domestic servitude. [32485]

Damian Green: There is no overall estimate of the level of trafficking for forced labour including domestic servitude.

We are improving our understanding of the extent of labour trafficking through enforcement efforts, liaison with experts in this area and in part from the statistics arising from the National Referral Mechanism, which from 1 April 2009 to 30 September 2010 show a total of 200 referrals of potential victims of trafficking for forced labour and 147 for domestic servitude. Of these 42 people were identified as being victims of trafficking for forced labour and 16 as victims of trafficking for domestic servitude.

Human Trafficking: Sexual Offences

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the level of trafficking into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation. [32486]

Damian Green: The most recent estimate of the level of trafficking for sexual exploitation was produced by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on 18 August 2010.

This estimate puts the figure of the number of migrant women trafficked to work in brothels and other premises in England and Wales at 2,600. A copy of the ACPO Report, "Setting the Record" can be found on their website at:

http://www.acpo.police.uk/asp/policies/Data/Setting%20the%20Record%20(Project%20ACUMEN)%20Aug%202010.pdf

and I will place a copy in the Library.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to bring forward proposals to ban wheel-clamping by private operators; and if she will make a statement [32413]

Lynne Featherstone: We announced on 17 August 2010 the Government's intention to ban wheel-clamping and towing away on private land.

Primary legislation will be needed to bring these changes into force. The Government plan to include this in the rights and freedoms Bill which will be introduced into Parliament shortly. We aim to bring the ban into force as soon as possible after the necessary legislation has been passed.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bangladesh: Politics and Government

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of compliance with human rights, the rule of law and democratic processes in Bangladesh; and if he will make a statement. [32529]

Alistair Burt: We regularly consider the level of compliance with human rights, the rule of law and democratic processes in Bangladesh. The UK wants to see a stable, prosperous and democratic Bangladesh with strong independent institutions, including the National Human Rights Commission, and a functioning Parliament at the centre of political debate where the focus is on policies for the people, not confrontation. The British Government raise concerns about human rights both bilaterally with the Bangladesh Government and through the EU. In addition to this, the British Government provide a range of human rights assistance to Bangladesh as part of its capacity building programmes. Such assistance is fully in line with the UK's laws and values. Respect for human rights is also integral to the UK's development programme in Bangladesh. This covers a range of areas including promotion of better governance, tackling extreme poverty and the challenges of climate change, and improving access to education, health care, and water and sanitation.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on recognition of the Palestinian Government in Gaza. [33214]

Alistair Burt: The international community, including the UK, recognised the results of the 2006 Palestinian legislative elections. But Hamas' subsequent actions in using force to oust its political rivals were far from democratic. Hamas' ideology of violence also directly undermines prospects for peace in the region. The Quartet has set out clearly that Hamas must renounce violence, recognise Israel and accept previously signed agreements. With our international partners, we will continue to call on Hamas to take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles and to release Gilad Shalit unconditionally.

We will also continue to call on all parties in the region including Hamas to refrain from any activity that could undermine the search for a just and lasting settlement.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance: Chatham

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Chatham and Aylesford constituency *(a)* are in receipt of carer's allowance and *(b)* were in receipt of carer's allowance in each of the last five years. [32500]

Maria Miller: The number of people in receipt of carer's allowance over the last five years.

Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency[1]

As at May:	*Number*
2010	1,060
2009	940
2008	870
2007	810
2006	800

[1] Constituencies used for May 2010 are for the Westminster Parliament 2010. Prior to this, the constituencies used are for May 2005.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Caseloads for CA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. These figures are published at:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, 100% data

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, *(b)* Jobcentre Plus and *(c)* Atos Healthcare in respect of his proposals to make contributory employment and support allowance payable for a maximum of one year; and if he will make a statement. [29773]

Maria Miller *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Jobcentre Plus or Atos Healthcare about proposals to time-limit contributory employment and support allowance.

Incapacity Benefit: Unpaid Work

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the evidential basis is for his Department's guidance that unpaid work and incapacity benefit are not necessarily incompatible. [32759]

Maria Miller: People claiming incapacity benefit can undertake a range of activities, including certain unpaid work and continue to be entitled to benefit. These rules are known as "permitted work". The Department for Work and Pensions Research Report No 268 "Final outcomes from the Permitted Work Rules" published in 2005, provides evidence that permitted work can act as a stepping stone to return to work; this forms the basis of the Government's policy. This report can be found at:

http://campaigns.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2005-2006/rrep268.pdf

Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) for new claimants in autumn 2008. The "permitted work" rules apply to employment and support allowance claimants in the same way as they do for incapacity benefit claimants.

Industrial Health and Safety

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the actions required to implement the recommendations of Lord Young's review of health and safety. [32555]

Chris Grayling: The Government have welcomed Lord Young's recommendations and are taking forward implementation on the basis of the timetable set out in his report. Actions for individual Departments or Agencies are included in business plans.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is taking forward recommendations within its remit and is on track with delivery to Lord Young's timetable.

Sick Leave: Ankylosing Spondylitis

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of working *(a)* years and *(b)* days lost through sickness absence as a result of ankylosing spondylitis. [32504]

Maria Miller: There are no recent estimates of working years or days lost as a result of ankylosing spondylitis.

State Retirement Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the net effect on the state pension of a person of average income who reaches state retirement age in 2011 of the implementation of *(a)* the triple guarantee and *(b)* proposed changes in uprating in respect of the second state pension. [19302]

Steve Webb: The net effect of the above policies on a person with an average state pension entitlement reaching state pension age in 2011 is estimated to be a lifetime gain of around £10,000, in net present value terms.

Notes:

1. The calculation is based on projected median state pension entitlement for individuals reaching state pension age in the 2011-12 tax year. This includes basic state pension entitlement, plus additional state pension entitlement, assuming no deductions due to periods spent in contracted-out employment.
2. The calculation excludes entitlement deriving from a former spouse's or partner's contributions, and assumes the individual does not defer claiming their state pension. Entitlement to graduated retirement benefit is not included.
3. The net present value figure is the net gain in terms of state pension entitlement.
4. The figure is rounded to the nearest £1,000.
5. The estimate assumes a length of retirement of 25 years.

Unemployment People: Harlow

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unemployed people there were in Harlow constituency in each year since 2000. [32291]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2010:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the number of unemployed people was in Harlow constituency in each year from 2000 to 2010. (032291)

The Harlow parliamentary constituency changed to new boundaries at the 2010 general election. Figures for the current Harlow parliamentary constituency are only available from 2004.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Unfortunately the sample size does not support analyses of unemployment for the Harlow constituency.

As an alternative, in Table 1, we have provided the number of persons resident in Harlow parliamentary constituency claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for November of each year from 2004 to 2010.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Harlow parliamentary constituency

November	Number
2004	1,052
2005	1,278
2006	1,503
2007	1,401
2008	1,776
2009	2,633
2010	2,398

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in receipt of *(a)* working tax credit only, *(b)* child tax credit only and *(c)* both working tax credit and child tax credit who do not receive housing benefit or council tax benefit. [26045]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

Data from the Department for Work and Pensions' Family Resources Survey 2008-09 suggests that, of families in receipt of tax credits but not housing benefit or council tax benefit:

(a) 0.2 million families received the working tax credit only;

(b) 2.1 million families received the child tax credit only;

(c) 1.3 million families received both the working tax credit and the child tax credit.

The Family Resources Survey 2008-09 publication notes that:

"The FRS under-reports receipt for most (...) benefits".

This publication is freely available on the DWP website.

Work Capability Assessment Independent Review

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that all relevant recommendations of the Harrington Review of work capability assessments are implemented before the commencement of the assessments and the migration of those on income support to employment and support allowance. [31421]

Maria Miller: We believe that the overall principles of the work capability assessment (WCA) are right, but that the specific system which we inherited, developed by the previous Government, contained flaws that risked undermining its effectiveness. We have therefore moved swiftly to put those right.

We welcome the first independent review of the WCA, led by Professor Malcolm Harrington. This was a thorough review that considered a substantial amount of evidence. Based on those fundings, Professor Harrington has come forward with a wide range of far reaching and challenging proposals which the Government fully supports.

We are committed to taking forward all of the review's recommendations so that we can make the WCA system fairer and more effective. The Government response to Professor Harrington's review sets out how and when we will implement the recommendations of the review, the majority of which will be in place in time for the national roll-out of the incapacity benefits reassessment programme.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Banks

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effects of banking regulation on its proposals to create an Enterprise Zone in Northern Ireland. [33012]

Mr Paterson: The subject of banking regulation in Northern Ireland has been discussed on a number of occasions between relevant Whitehall Departments. Discussions on the Enterprise Zone proposals are ongoing between HM Government and the Northern Ireland Executive and we intend to consult publicly on the proposals in the near future.

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions his Department has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings his Department was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions his Department has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31910]

Mr Swire: There has been one oral statement since 26 May by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. That statement was on 14 September on the publication of the Report by the Billy Wright Inquiry.

The Prime Minister made a statement on 15 June in relation to the publication of the Bloody Sunday Report.

On both occasions with the agreement of the Speaker and under strictly controlled conditions, accredited media representatives were allowed advance sight of the reports one hour before the oral statements.

On neither occasion was the embargo breached.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 11W, on energy, if he will take steps through bilateral discussions to encourage his G20 counterparts to implement national commitments to reduce fossil fuel subsidies. [33075]

Charles Hendry: We will continue to look for opportunities in bilateral contacts with G20 members to support them in their implementation of their national plans for reducing and phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

Energy: Prices

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the proposed increase in electricity prices attributable to his proposals for electricity market reform with statutory equality duties on the Government. [32365]

Charles Hendry: As set out in the impact assessment accompanying the Government's consultation on Electricity Market Reform:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/emr/emr.aspx

it is not envisaged that the reform options will impact measures of equality detailed in the Statutory Equality Duties Guidance. Although the distributional analysis shows that the reforms will have a different impact on different income groups—on account of their different levels of income, expenditure and electricity consumption—it is not envisaged that they will directly affect individuals differently on account of their protected characteristics. Specifically, the options would not have different direct impacts on people of different age, disability, gender, gender-reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average change in electricity bills attributable to his proposal for reform of the energy market in each of the next five years. [32374]

Charles Hendry: On 16 December 2010, the Government launched consultations on a package of options for electricity market reform:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/emr/emr.aspx

The preferred package is to have a feed-in-tariff with a 'contract for difference' model for supporting low-carbon generation in combination with a targeted capacity mechanism, carbon price support and an emissions performance standard. The following tables show the impact on electricity bills for domestic and non-domestic consumers of this preferred package, over the next five years, compared to estimated 'baseline' bills absent the reforms (but including existing policies).

Although the proposed reforms may cause a small increase in electricity bills in the short term, by 2030 electricity bills are expected to be lower than they otherwise would be (in the absence of the reforms).

Both the baseline electricity bill estimates and those including electricity market reform, shown in the following tables, include savings in average household electricity consumption as a result of a range of policies to improve energy efficiency the Government has in place, which help lessen the overall bill impact.

	Baseline average domestic electricity bill (£)	*Estimated average domestic electricity bill including electricity market reform (£)*	*Estimated impact on average domestic electricity bill of electricity market reform (£)*
2010	493	493	0 (0%)
2011	480	480	0 (0%)
2012	481	481	0 (0%)
2013	469	471	2 (0%)
2014	476	482	6 (1%)
2015	476	486	9 (2%)

	Baseline average non-domestic electricity bill (£)	*Estimated average non-domestic electricity bill including electricity market reform (£)*	*Estimated impact on average non-domestic electricity bill of electricity market reform (£)*
2010	918,000	918,000	0 (0%)
2011	928,000	928,000	0 (0%)
2012	928,000	928,000	0 (0%)
2013	945,000	950,000	6,000 (1%)
2014	958,000	974,000	15,000 (2%)
2015	981,000	1,007,000	26,000 (3%)

Energy: Private Rented Housing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the merits of including provisions in the Energy Security and Green Economy Bill to establish a legally binding minimum energy efficiency standard for private rented homes by 2016; and if he will make a statement. [31256]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal will offer a range of innovative finance packages allowing landlords to install energy efficiency measures in their rental properties at no upfront cost to themselves.

There are no current plans to introduce a legally binding minimum energy efficiency standard for private rented homes. However, we are seeking powers in the Energy Bill that would require landlords to make reasonable energy efficiency improvements to the least energy efficient properties from 2015. These powers will only be used if the sector does not make voluntary improvements under the forthcoming Green Deal.

Fossil Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has discussed with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs the role of his Department in promoting fossil fuel subsidy reform in emerging economies through the UK's diplomatic network. [33123]

Charles Hendry: Officials from both the Department for Energy and Climate Change and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are working with posts in emerging economies to encourage reform of fossil fuel subsidies.

Fuel: Poverty

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the number of people expected to be in fuel poverty in each year to 2016. [33158]

Gregory Barker: The latest fuel poverty estimates are for 2008 and show that there were 3.3 million households in fuel poverty in England in that year.

DECC has projected the level of fuel poverty in England for 2009 and 2010 given known changes in the prices of energy and estimated changes in household incomes. In 2009, due to increasing energy prices in this period, the level of fuel poverty in England is predicted to be around 4.1 million households, falling slightly to 4.0 million households in 2010.

DECC currently has made no projections on the number of households expected to be in fuel poverty in the years 2011 to 2016 as these would require knowledge of future changes in incomes and energy prices.

Heating Oil Suppliers

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment his Department has made of the pricing strategies of heating oil suppliers. [33081]

Charles Hendry: We continue to monitor trends in the price of heating oil and other fuels. The UK has open and competitive markets for heating oil and other petroleum products. The Office of Fair Trading continues to consider all complaints and representations carefully and is monitoring for any indications that consumer or competition legislation has been breached.

Natural Gas: Storage

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will implement incentives to encourage the storage of gas for the purpose of energy security in the winter of 2010-11. [32420]

Charles Hendry: The United Kingdom relies on a well defined, independently regulated, competitive market to deliver the necessary energy infrastructure and competitive sources of energy. Market participants, rather than Government, are best placed to assess the complex range of factors affecting the profitability of storing and providing gas; and how these might evolve over time.

There are already sharp incentives on gas shippers to balance their positions across each day of this winter. The market has been working effectively to deliver sufficient supplies of gas to meet the country's needs. It has responded well, bringing forward sufficient supplies even in response to near record levels of demand during the cold spells earlier this winter. However, the Government are not complacent, and are seeking to refine the market framework through the measures contained in the Energy Bill 2010-11. A provision in the Bill will further improve gas security of supply by giving Ofgem a new power to amend the gas market's Uniform Network Code to sharpen commercial incentives on gas market participants to meet their contractual supply obligations and reduce the duration, likelihood or severity of a gas supply emergency. This will help underpin commercial demand for additional gas supply infrastructure such as storage and import facilities, as well as long-term contracts. Ofgem is now launching a "Significant Code Review" exercise to enhance gas market arrangements and believes that there is a reasonable prospect that the new power would enable it to implement these by the end of 2011.

Against that background the Government has no plans to introduce further incentives to encourage the storage of gas over the course of winter 2010-11.

Solar Energy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the oral answer of 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1030-31, on community energy schemes, what steps he is taking in respect of photovoltaic solar energy farms. [32250]

Gregory Barker: The coalition Government are committed to the full implementation of feed-in tariffs and want to see an ambitious roll out of the widest possible range of domestic and community scale renewables, including solar PV.

We have therefore expressed concerns that the scheme we inherited leaves open the prospect of large, industrial-scale, greenfield based solar farms distorting the available funding for roof top and other innovative solar technologies, as well as other microgeneration technologies that also qualify for FITs.

We do not want to see such projects soaking up the money that would otherwise go to homes, small businesses and communities. We are monitoring the situation closely and, while we will not act retrospectively, we stand ready to take measures to limit the access of such schemes to FITs if necessary.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Banks: Pay

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from the British Bankers Association on bank bonuses in the current year; and what estimate he has made of the likely change in the level of such bonuses between 2009 and 2010. [27636]

Mr Hoban: I have been asked to reply.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Bonuses paid in 2011 will be subject to the revised Financial Services Authority (FSA) Remuneration Code. This includes provisions on deferral, payment in shares and other non-cash instruments and performance linkage and clawback arrangements. Significant risk takers and other high earning employees in this industry will not receive all their bonuses in cash whilst leaving their shareholders, and potentially the taxpayer, exposed to the long term risks they take. These reforms will ensure that when a bank underperforms, it is reflected in the remuneration paid.

Broadband

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which body is responsible for ensuring that speeds delivered by broadband providers meet advertised speeds. [31524]

Mr Vaizey: In the first instance, the Advertising Standards Authority is the body with formal responsibility for making sure that companies comply with the rules that ensure that consumers are not misled by advertising—including those that specify broadband speeds.

Ofcom, the independent regulator of the UK's telecoms industry, has strengthened the Voluntary Code of Practice on Broadband Speeds ("the Code") which it introduced in 2008. Internet service providers who sign up to the revised code commit to give consumers a more accurate and consistent estimate of the maximum speed likely to be achievable on their line.

Farepak

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will undertake an assessment of debt levels and financial hardship caused by the closure of Farepak. [31878]

Mr Davey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has no plans to undertake an assessment of debt levels and financial hardship caused by the collapse of Farepak.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will undertake an assessment of the implications for future consumer regulation of the closure of Farepak. [31879]

Mr Davey: The Government believe that effective protection has been put in place since the collapse of Farepak to protect the remaining Christmas saving clubs' customers' prepayments as far as it is practicable to do so.

Intellectual Property and Growth Review

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what areas he expects the panel of experts for the Intellectual Property and Growth Review to advise. [32173]

Mr Davey: The members of the independent panel which will advise Professor Ian Hargreaves have been selected in order to equip the review with a range of relevant expertise, including in business, innovation, economics and aspects of intellectual property, and they will provide advice accordingly.

Ofcom: Manpower

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of Ofcom employees had a qualification in an engineering or science subject in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [32233]

Mr Vaizey: The matter raised is an operational issue relating to the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than to Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Ofcom: Text Relay Services

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the research on text relay services carried out for Ofcom by Opinion Leader Research. [31768]

Mr Vaizey: BIS have not been involved in the commission, financing or evaluation of this research.

All research that Ofcom commissions is closely managed and continually evaluated by its own research team. The Opinion Leader research on relay services has been subject to the same scrutiny and will be subject to further scrutiny and assessment in Ofcom's forthcoming consultation document on relay services.

Phonographic Performance Limited: Voluntary Sector

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the likely cost to the voluntary and charitable sector of the application to them of the *(a)* Phonographic Performance Limited licence and *(b)* Performing Rights Society licence. [31734]

Mr Davey: The impact assessment conducted by the previous Government estimated the average annual cost to charities and not-for-profit organisations of the repeal of the current exemptions contained in s. 67 and 72(1B)(a) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 to be £18.7 million per year for the purchasing of Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) licences. Full details of the impact assessment were published and are available here:

http://www.ipo.gov.uk/govresponse-musiclicensing.pdf

The impact assessment figure of £18.7 million was based on an estimated flat fee of £81 per annum for each music user. However, following negotiations between PPL and the relevant sector, the majority of community buildings/village halls will pay £40 per annum and the vast majority of charity shops will pay the lower rate £54 per annum—this includes both the shop and back office.

Following discussions with this Government, PPL has also agreed to give a year's grace and will not begin charging charities until 1 January 2012.

These changes do not affect the existing licensing arrangements with regard to the Performing Rights Society Licence.

Students: Fees and Charges

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the likely effects on students in Poplar and Limehouse constituency of the implementation of proposed changes to the entitlement to free tuition for those on non-active benefits; and if he will make a statement. [31853]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The Department and the Skills Funding Agency monitor the impact of adult skills policies on an ongoing basis.

8,000 adults in the Poplar and Limehouse constituency participated in training in 2009/10. Of those, 450 indicated that they were primarily eligible for full fee remission as they were in receipt of job seekers allowance.

Skills interventions will be a key part of the Jobcentre Plus offer to claimants. For those who are unemployed and in receipt of jobseekers' allowance and employment support allowance (Work Related Activity Group), full-funding will still be available for full qualifications and from August 2011 for units from the QCF, for training to help them enter employment.

In the academic year 2011/12, all adults will be able to get their first level 2 qualification fully funded and those aged 19 to 25 will in addition be able to get their first full level 3 qualification fully funded. From 2012/13 the entitlement will change to full funding for first qualifications at levels 2 and 3 for people aged 19 up to 24 years old only.

Adults of any age will still be eligible for fully-funded tuition in basic literacy and numeracy irrespective of whether or not they are on benefits.

Telecommunications: Hearing Impairment

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the provision of telecommunications services for British Sign Language users; and if he will make a statement. [31559]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The Department for Business strives to ensure the best provisions for deaf, hard of hearing and British Sign Language (BSL) users.

The Department is currently implementing revisions to the European Electronic Communications Framework, including a new requirement on equivalence in access and choice for disabled end-users. This provision requires member states to empower national regulators to specify requirements to be met by electronic communications network and service providers, and also requires member states to encourage the availability of terminal equipment offering "the necessary services and functions".

The UK currently has a text relay service and access to the emergency services as mandated in the Framework.

JUSTICE

Local Probation Trusts

17. **Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the future commissioning of community punishment will include a central role for local probation trusts. [32693]

Mr Blunt: We are following the policy announced by the previous Government in April 2009 and are preparing a detailed commissioning strategy, which will involve putting all community payback services out to tender in a series of mini competitions, phased over a period of time. Probation trusts will be able to compete to provide those services.

Former Prisoners: Support

18. **Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on measures to support former prisoners after their release. [32694]

Mr Blunt: The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke) is in discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith) on a range of issues relating to resettlement support for former prisoners. In particular, we are jointly taking forward plans to incentivise DWP Work programme providers to give employment support to unemployed offenders, with the providers paid for their success in getting people into work.

Burglary Offences: Custodial Sentences

19. **Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of people convicted of burglary offences were given custodial sentences in the latest period for which figures are available. [32695]

Mr Blunt: In 2009, 54% of offenders sentenced for burglary were given an immediate or suspended custodial sentence.

Educational Opportunities: Prisoners

20. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to increase educational opportunities for prisoners. [32696]

Mr Blunt: Jointly with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Ministry of Justice have undertaken a review of offender learning. We expect this to tell us how best to provide learning opportunities and maximise the number of prisoners taking part. We will report shortly.

Arrest Warrants

21. **Duncan Hames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Attorney-General on the resources available to the Director of Public Prosecutions for the implementation of the Secretary of State's proposals relating to arrest warrants for offences under universal jurisdiction. [32697]

Mr Blunt: No such discussions have taken place. Any credible allegations relating to universal jurisdiction offences would continue to be accorded the highest priority, and there is no reason to doubt the capacity of the Crown Prosecution Service to deal with them.

Drug Dependency: Prisoners

22. **Caroline Dinenage:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to reduce drug dependency in prisons. [32699]

Nick Herbert: Our proposals on rehabilitation, which include a focus on recovery from drug dependency, were published in a Green Paper on rehabilitation and sentencing in December 2010. These include:

ensuring sentencing helps offenders to come off drugs;

piloting drug recovery wings;

supporting the Department of Health in developing payment-by-results drug recovery pilots; and

reducing the availability of drugs in prison.

Human Trafficking Victims: Accommodation

23. **Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department plans to provide in grants to support the provision of accommodation to adult victims of human trafficking in each of the seven largest cities in England. [32700]

Mr Djanogly: Adults trafficked in England and Wales can access specialist support and accommodation through the National Referral Mechanism, a multi-agency framework for identifying victims of trafficking and referring them to support services.

It is not possible to ascertain the precise funding that a particular area will receive to support the provision of accommodation for adult victims of trafficking, as the Government fund such specialist support through a national model rather than through the allocation of funding to local areas.

As part of a wider strategy to combat human trafficking, the Government are in the process of introducing a new model for funding specialist support for adult victims of trafficking in England and Wales. Provision will continue to be funded through a centralised commissioning model, but with a prime contractor allocating and co-ordinating support. A tender exercise to select the prime contractor commenced on 15 December 2010. The value of the contract will only be known once the procurement process has concluded but it is expected to be within a range of £1 million to £2 million per annum.

New Prisons: CSR

24. **Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many proposals for the construction of new prisons have been withdrawn as a result of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [32701]

Mr Blunt: Plans to build a prison in Maghull, Merseyside will not go ahead, while proposals to build a prison in Runwell, Essex have been deferred for the spending review period.

Community Orders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people currently serving community sentences are deemed to be high risk by the Probation Service; and how many people serving community sentences have been deemed to be high risk by the Probation Service in each of the last three years. [32787]

Mr Blunt: Data on how many offenders currently serving community sentences have been assessed as high/very high risk of serious harm are not held centrally. Data for the financial year 2010-11 will be available in the summer. Figures for the last three financial years are available and are set out in the following table. The table presents, for each financial year, the number of offenders subject to a community order or suspended sentence order (Criminal Justice Act 2003) who have been assessed as presenting a high or very risk high risk of serious harm. The assessment of risk of serious harm is made through the Offender Assessment System (OASys). The data are drawn from administrative IT systems and are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale assessment and recording system.

		High/very high risk of serious harm (community)	
Financial year	*Number of assessments*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2007-08	139,826	5,814	4.2
2008-09	189,457	6,660	3.5
2009-10	173,743	6,438	3.7

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the highest number of breaches of a community sentence recorded in respect of an individual was in each of the last three years; [32788]

(2) how many people have breached community sentences in each of the last three years; and how many community sentences have been breached in each of the last three years. [32790]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on breaches of community sentences by individual offenders is recorded by probation trusts on their case management systems. It is used in the day-to-day management of offenders, including as a trigger to appropriate action in response to a breach, for example through formal warnings or enforcement action, but the figures requested do not form part of trusts' routine reporting. Therefore to produce the figures requested would entail asking the 35 probation trusts to interrogate the case record of each offender supervised in the past three years and provide a report to the centre on the number of offenders with a breach recorded, the total number of breaches that have occurred in each case and the highest recorded against an individual.

However, data are available on the reasons for termination of community orders and suspended sentence orders. These reasons include early termination for failure to comply with requirements or for conviction of a further offence. Figures for the years 2006 to 2009 are shown at Table 5.1 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009, published on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/omcs-2009-complete-210710a.pdf

It should be noted that not all breaches of community sentences will result in early termination. In line with National Standards for the Management of Offenders 2007 an offender who fails to comply with the terms of his or her supervision in the community may be given one formal warning in any 12 month period on an order (and no more than two warnings within a 12 month period while on post-release licence) before breach or recall action becomes required. Furthermore, although the court which hears an allegation of breach relating to a community order may decide to revoke the order and replace it with an alternative community or custodial sentence, it may on the other hand decide that the order should continue with more onerous requirements.

In the recent Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders"[1] the Government stated that it is unacceptable that a quarter of offenders on community orders or on licence do not complete the sentence due to breaking the conditions of that order or licence. The Green Paper sets out in further detail our proposals for making community sentences more robust, rigorous and effective.

Driving Offences: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many residents of the London borough of Bexley were convicted of a motoring offence in each of the last three years. [32462]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons found guilty of motoring offences at all courts in the Metropolitan police force area for the years 2007 to 2009 (latest available) are shown in the following table. Data available centrally do not identify the place of residence of those convicted of an offence.

Court proceedings data are not available at local government authority area level. Therefore, data for the Metropolitan police force area have been provided in lieu.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Number of persons found guilty of motoring offences at all courts, Metropolitan police force area 2007-09[1, 2]

Offence group	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Motoring offences (indictable and summary offences)	64,031	71,749	77,316

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to bring forward legislative proposals equivalent to those for public bodies under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 to cover *(a)* water utility companies and *(b)* other private companies; and if he will make a statement. [32332]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon) on 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1339-40W.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what projects his Department is operating with organisations in the charity sector to provide rehabilitation for offenders and former offenders. [32563]

Mr Blunt: According to our records, there are over 200 voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations engaged with the National Offender Management Service, in either custody or community, working with prisons and/or probation trusts to meet a range of offender needs. It is not currently possible to list the full range of interventions delivered, either wholly or in part, by these voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations. This information is not stored centrally, and would require very large scale data retrieval from NOMS headquarters, prisons and probation trusts.

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[1] http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/docs/breaking-the-cycle.pdf

Prison Sentences

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2010 to question 31730, on sentencing, how many offenders in each category received a custodial sentence. [32793]

Mr Blunt: Tables 1-5 show figures for sentences given for indictable offences to offenders with 16 or more previous convictions or cautions, who received an immediate custodial sentence, by category of offence and gender.

Tables 6-10 show figures for sentences given for indictable offences to offenders with 16 or more previous convictions or cautions, who received an immediate custodial sentence, by category of offence and ethnicity. These figures are derived from table 6.2 of "Sentencing Statistics: England and Wales 2009" which was published on 21 October 2010.

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer (PNC), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police. The ethnicity information recorded on the PNC reflects the police officer's view of the offender's ethnicity.

Table 1: Number of offenders with 16-25 previous convictions or cautions who received an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category and gender, 2007-09

Number of offenders

	2007		*2008*		*2009*	
England and Wales	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Violence against the person	2,604	155	2,760	148	2,679	162
Sexual offences	190	1	180	-	163	1
Burglary	2,957	75	3,285	90	3,048	82
Robbery	692	34	747	49	858	44
Theft and handling stolen goods	5,529	873	5,986	1,053	5,206	887
Fraud and forgery	225	29	253	32	264	43
Criminal damage	202	8	227	11	206	12
Drug offences	1,139	101	1,325	103	1,215	76
Indictable motoring offences	301	3	294	1	212	—
Other indictable offences	1,535	92	1,585	108	1,421	88
Total	15,374	1,371	16,642	1,595	15,272	1,395

Table 2: Number of offenders with 26-50 previous convictions or cautions who received an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category and gender, 2007-09

Number of offenders

	2007		*2008*		*2009*	
England and Wales	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Violence against the person	1,312	96	1,593	131	1,728	117
Sexual offences	69	1	74	-	73	1
Burglary	1,851	38	2,208	37	2,173	36
Robbery	253	19	317	20	347	27
Theft and handling stolen goods	5,131	761	6,134	911	5,772	806
Fraud and forgery	152	22	164	20	164	17
Criminal damage	98	5	117	9	110	3
Drug offences	599	29	743	50	723	49
Indictable motoring offences	117	2	116	3	119	3
Other indictable offences	784	55	909	56	855	32
Total	10,366	1,028	12,375	1,237	12,064	1,091

Table 3: Number of offenders with 51-75 previous convictions or cautions who received an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category and gender, 2007-09

Number of offenders

	2007		*2008*		*2009*	
England and Wales	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Violence against the person	226	25	267	23	243	33
Sexual offences	7	—	4		8	
Burglary	97	2	146	3	133	3
Robbery	11	2	9	1	14	3
Theft and handling stolen goods	710	87	863	112	1,000	132
Fraud and forgery	16	5	24	1	19	—
Criminal damage	7	1	9	2	6	1
Drug offences	21	6	38	2	42	2
Indictable motoring offences	8	1	6	—	2	—

Table 3: Number of offenders with 51-75 previous convictions or cautions who received an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category and gender, 2007-09

Number of offenders

	2007		2008		2009	
England and Wales	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Other indictable offences	71	3	71	5	82	6
Total	1,174	132	1,437	149	1,549	180

Table 4: Number of offenders with 76-100 previous convictions or cautions who received an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category and gender, 2007-09

Number of offenders

	2007		2008		2009	
England and Wales	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Violence against the person	94	8	110	15	108	9
Sexual offences	2	—	—	—	2	1
Burglary	10	—	14	2	20	1
Robbery	1	—	1	1	—	—
Theft and handling stolen goods	132	18	176	21	182	11
Fraud and forgery	3	1	11	—	5	—
Criminal damage	—	1	3	—	3	—
Drug offences	5	1	4	1	4	1
Indictable motoring offences	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other indictable offences	10	4	15	5	14	1
Total	257	33	334	45	338	24

Table 5: Number of offenders with 101 or more previous convictions or cautions who received an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category and gender, 2007-09

Number of offenders

	2007		2008		2009	
England and Wales	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Violence against the person	77	8	103	14	127	21
Sexual offences	3	—	2	—	1	—
Burglary	8	—	9	—	10	2
Robbery	1	1	—	—	—	—
Theft and handling stolen goods	91	9	128	15	155	16
Fraud and forgery	3	4	3	1	4	2
Criminal damage	9	1	7	—	4	—
Drug offences	—	1	3	1	2	2
Indictable motoring offences	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other indictable offences	11	8	17	1	15	1
Total	203	32	272	32	318	44

Note:

These figures do not include those with an unknown gender.

Table 6: Number of offenders with 16-25 previous convictions or cautions who received an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category and ethnicity, 2007-09

Number of offenders

	2007					2008				
England and Wales	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*
Violence against the person	2,451	231	59	5	13	2,533	263	73	13	26
Sexual offences	168	19	1	—	3	154	16	6	1	3
Burglary	2,764	213	31	5	19	3,031	256	55	14	19
Robbery	608	92	22	1	3	670	101	17	2	6
Theft and handling stolen goods	5,684	471	199	19	29	6,261	494	222	24	38
Fraud and forgery	206	32	13	1	2	240	24	21	—	
Criminal damage	199	8	1	—	2	227	8	3	1	
Drug offences	1,046	136	41	8	9	1,181	162	72	8	5
Indictable motoring offences	260	29	11	—	4	271	19	4	1	

Table 6: Number of offenders with 16-25 previous convictions or cautions who received an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category and ethnicity, 2007-09

Number of offenders

	2007					2008				
England and Wales	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*
Other indictable offences	1,475	107	37	3	5	1,492	139	44	10	8
Total	14,861	1,338	415	42	89	16,060	1,482	517	74	105

Number of offenders

	2009				
England and Wales	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*
Violence against the person	2,505	252	61	4	19
Sexual offences	140	16	6	2	—
Burglary	2,840	227	46	6	11
Robbery	767	99	29	1	6
Theft and handling stolen goods	5,358	465	210	19	41
Fraud and forgery	238	40	24	5	—
Criminal damage	202	15	1	—	—
Drug offences	1,052	152	73	4	10
Indictable motoring offences	181	15	16	—	—
Other indictable offences	1,325	126	47	3	8
Total	14,608	1,407	513	44	95

Table 7: Number of offenders with 26-50 previous convictions or cautions who received an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category and ethnicity, 2007-09

Number of offenders

	2007					2008				
England and Wales	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*
Violence against the person	1,270	102	23	4	9	1,539	140	25	3	17
Sexual offences	66	2	1	—	1	64	7	1	—	2
Burglary	1,732	131	17	2	7	2,057	155	19	5	9
Robbery	238	26	4	1	3	290	40	6	—	1
Theft and handling stolen goods	5,268	501	85	14	24	6,333	541	117	20	34
Fraud and forgery	152	19	1	1	1	168	13	2	1	—
Criminal damage	96	5	2	—	—	120	3	1	—	2
Drug offences	557	56	9	2	4	710	68	9	1	5
Indictable motoring offences	109	6	3	—	1	108	7	2	1	1
Other indictable offences	764	59	9	3	4	869	79	13	—	4
Total	10,252	907	154	27	54	12,258	1,053	195	31	75

Number of offenders

	2009				
England and Wales	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*
Violence against the person	1,654	143	30	6	12
Sexual offences	63	10	1	—	—
Burglary	2,021	160	17	3	8
Robbery	340	28	3	1	2
Theft and handling stolen goods	5,943	486	109	17	23
Fraud and forgery	160	17	3	—	1
Criminal damage	107	4	1	1	—
Drug offences	688	59	18	3	4
Indictable motoring offences	111	9	2	—	—
Other indictable offences	807	53	19	—	8
Total	11,894	969	203	31	58

Table 8: Number of offenders with 51-75 previous convictions or cautions who received an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category and ethnicity, 2007-09

Number of offenders

England and Wales	*2007* *White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*	*2008* *White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*
Violence against the person	217	33	—	—	1	263	24	2	1	
Sexual offences	7	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1
Burglary	93	5	—	1	—	141	7	—	—	1
Robbery	11	2	—	—	—	9	1	—	—	—
Theft and handling stolen goods	713	71	10	2	1	866	95	12	1	1
Fraud and forgery	10	6	4	1	—	25	—	—	—	
Criminal damage	8	—	—	—	—	11	—		—	—
Drug offences	22	5	—	—	—	36	2	—	—	2
Indictable motoring offences	9	—		—	—	5	1	—	—	
Other indictable offences	68	6	—	—	—	68	6	1	—	1
Total	1,158	128	14	4	2	1,426	136	16	2	6

Number of offences

England and Wales	*2009* *White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*
Violence against the person	251	21	1	2	1
Sexual offences	7	1	—	—	
Burglary	121	14	1	—	
Robbery	14	3	—	—	—
Theft and handling stolen goods	1,052	61	12	3	4
Fraud and forgery	18	1	—	—	
Criminal damage	7	—	—	—	
Drug offences	37	4	1	—	2
Indictable motoring offences	2	—	—	—	
Other indictable offences	78	7	2	1	
Total	1,587	112	17	6	7

Table 9: Number of offenders with 76-100 previous convictions or cautions who received an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category and ethnicity, 2007-09

Number of offenders

England and Wales	*2007* *White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*	*2008* *White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*
Violence against the person	99	3			—	122	3			
Sexual offences	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Burglary	9	1	—	—	—	15	1	—	—	
Robbery	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	
Theft and handling stolen goods	144	6		—	—	184	12	—	1	
Fraud and forgery	3	1	—	—	—	5	6	—	—	
Criminal damage	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—		
Drug offences	4	2	—	—		5	—	—	—	—
Indictable motoring offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other indictable offences	12	1	—	—	1	19	—	—	—	1

Table 9: Number of offenders with 76-100 previous convictions or cautions who received an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category and ethnicity, 2007-09

Number of offenders

	2007					2008				
England and Wales	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*
Total	275	14	0	0	1	355	22	0	1	1

Number of offenders

	2009				
England and Wales	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*
Violence against the person	113	4	—	—	—
Sexual offences	3	—	—	—	—
Burglary	19	2	—	—	—
Robbery	—	—	—	—	—
Theft and handling stolen goods	176	14	—	3	—
Fraud and forgery	5	—	—	—	—
Criminal damage	3	—	—	—	—
Drug offences	5	—	—	—	—
Indictable motoring offences	—	—	—	—	—
Other indictable offences	15	—	—	—	—
Total	339	20	0	3	0

Table 10: Number of offenders with 101 or more previous convictions or cautions who received an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category and ethnicity 2007-09

Number of offenders

	2007					2008				
England and Wales	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*
Violence against the person	78	4	—	—	3	108	1	1	—	7
Sexual offences	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Burglary	7	—	1	—	—	8	—	1	—	—
Robbery	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Theft and handling stolen goods	98	—	—	—	2	140	2	—	—	1
Fraud and forgery	6	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Criminal damage	10	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
Drug offences	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
Indictable motoring offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other indictable offences	19	—	—	—	—	16	1	—	—	1
Total	224	4	2	0	5	287	6	2	0	9

Number of offenders

	2009				
England and Wales	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*
Violence against the person	139	8	—	—	1
Sexual offences	1	—	—	—	—
Burglary	11	1	—	—	—
Robbery	—	—	—	—	—
Theft and handling stolen goods	166	2	—	—	3
Fraud and forgery	5	1	—	—	—
Criminal damage	4	—	—	—	—
Drug offences	3	1	—	—	—
Indictable motoring offences	—	—	—	—	—
Other indictable offences	16	—	—	—	—
Total	345	13	0	0	4

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners convicted of each category of offence received a custodial sentence of *(a)* four years or more and *(b)* less than four years in each of the last five years. [32842]

Mr Blunt: The tables show information on custodial sentences in prison establishments in England and Wales by sentence length band and offence category as of June each year from 2006 to 2009 and at 30 September 2010.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Immediate custodial sentenced population in prison establishments by sentence length and offence category, 2006-10

Number of persons

England and Wales 30 September 2010

	All	*Less than four years*	*Four years or more (excluding indeterminate)*	*Indeterminate sentences*
Males and females	65,957	28,770	23,916	13,271
Violence against the person	18,667	5,951	4,663	8,053
Sexual offences	8,697	1,742	4,665	2,290
Robbery	7,856	2,484	3,714	1,658
Burglary	6,113	4,144	1,846	123
Theft and handling	3,969	3,484	448	37
Fraud and forgery	1,498	1,060	428	10
Drug offences	10,556	4,306	6,221	29
Motoring offences	902	835	49	18
Other offences	7,119	4,392	1,737	990
Offence not recorded	580	372	145	63

Notes:

1. The figures for September 2010 are based on a new data source and includes data on recall prison population;
2. Recalls are not banded by sentence length, so figures above exclude prisoners who have been recalled to prison.

Number of persons

England and Wales 30 June 2009

	All	*Less than four years*	*Four years or more (excluding indeterminate)*	*Indeterminate sentences*
Males and females	68,375	31,357	24,497	12,521
Violence against the person	19,946	6,979	5,086	7,882
Sexual offences	7,972	1,283	4,637	2,052
Robbery	9,049	3,269	4,186	1,595
Burglary	7,884	5,585	2,153	146
Theft and handling	3,382	3,059	303	20
Fraud and forgery	1,875	1,466	405	4
Drug offences	10,696	4,305	6,377	14
Motoring offences	1,149	1,097	48	3
Other offences	6,117	4,118	1,247	752
Offence not recorded	304	197	54	53

Note:

Data taken from Table 7.4 Offender Management Caseload Statistics.

Number of persons

England and Wales 30 June 2008

	All	*Less than four years*	*Four years or more (excluding indeterminate)*	*Indeterminate sentences*
Males and females	68,124	32,371	24,371	11,382
Violence against the person	18,930	6,844	4,865	7,221
Sexual offences	7,616	1,366	4,426	1,824
Robbery	8,733	3,088	4,186	1,459
Burglary	7,935	5,625	2,184	127
Theft and handling	3,836	3,502	314	20
Fraud and forgery	2,020	1,641	374	5
Drug offences	10,982	4,313	6,657	12
Motoring offences	1,377	1,320	51	6
Other offences	6,439	4,495	1,255	689
Offence not recorded	256	175	60	21

Note:

Data taken from Table 7.4 Offender Management Caseload Statistics.

Number of persons

England and Wales 30 June 2007

	All	*Less than four years*	*Four years or more (excluding indeterminate)*	*Indeterminate sentences*
Males and females	65,533	30,466	25,586	9,481
Violence against the person	17,616	6,251	5,036	6,329
Sexual offences	7,336	1,449	4,484	1,401
Robbery	8,747	3,087	4,595	1,065
Burglary	7,920	5,448	2,380	92
Theft and handling	3,706	3,326	365	14
Fraud and forgery	1,738	1,358	378	3
Drug offences	10,613	3,719	6,887	8
Motoring offences	1,484	1,430	48	6
Other offences	5,991	4,173	1,302	516
Offence not recorded	383	225	111	47

Note:
Data taken from Table 7.4 Offender Management Caseload Statistics.

Number of persons

England and Wales 30 June 2006

	All	*Less than four years*	*Four years or more (excluding indeterminate)*	*Indeterminate sentences*
Males and females	63,404	30,104	26,027	7,274
Violence against the person	16,215	5,880	4,958	5,377
Sexual offences	6,598	1,392	4,277	929
Robbery	8,415	2,909	4,909	597
Burglary	7,791	5,186	2,555	51
Theft and handling	4,125	3,713	400	12
Fraud and forgery	1,692	1,377	314	1
Drug offences	10,647	3,552	7,091	3
Motoring offences	1,920	1,857	62	1
Other offences	5,594	3,954	1,346	293
Offence not recorded	408	285	112	10

Note:
Data taken from Table 8.12 Offender Management Caseload Statistics.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1120-1W, on sentencing, what the highest number was of previous convictions or cautions of an offender who did not receive an immediate custodial sentence. [32882]

Mr Blunt: The highest number of previous convictions or cautions for an offender who received a non-custodial sentence in 2009 was 578. These previous offences were committed over a period of 50 years. This figure is derived from table 6.2 of "Sentencing Statistics: England and Wales 2009" which was published on 21 October 2010.

This figure has been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison Sentences: Reoffenders

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the prisoners serving a custodial sentence of less than four years for each category of offence are repeat offenders. [32841]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows figures for the population in prison establishments at 30 June 2009 serving an immediate custodial sentence of less than four years, by offence category and criminal history. These figures are a further breakdown of table 7.32 in 'Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009' which was published on 22 July 2010.

Population in prison establishments serving an immediate custodial sentence of less than four years at 30 June 2009, by offence category and criminal history England and Wales

Number of offenders

Offence category	*All offenders*	*First time offenders*	*One or more previous convictions/ cautions*
Violence against the person	6,668	406	6,262
Sexual offences	1,439	447	992
Burglary	5,181	38	5,143
Robbery	3,039	134	2,905
Theft and handling	2,793	167	2,626
Fraud and Forgery	1,440	675	765
Drug offences	4,109	607	3,502
Motoring offences	999	36	963
Other offences	4,360	346	4,014
Offence not recorded	758	57	701
Total	30,786	2,913	27,873

These criminal history figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Prisoners' Release: Reoffenders

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the Social Impact Bond scheme in HM Prison Peterborough of the *(a)* current economic situation and *(b)* implementation of the Government's proposed reform of housing benefit. [32414]

Mr Blunt: The Social Impact Bond pilot scheme has generated significant new resource to rehabilitate offenders, through social investors paying upfront for intensive services and mentoring to reduce reconvictions in 3,000 short-sentence (less than 12 months) prisoners released from HMP Peterborough.

The Government will pay only on the results the scheme delivers. The effect of the Social Impact Bond in reducing reconvictions will be determined by an independent assessor against a matched control group of 30,000 offenders with similar characteristics released from other prisons. This approach will minimise the possibility that those in the scheme will be particularly sensitive to external factors such as prevailing economic conditions or changes in Government policy.

Prisoners: Deaths

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* the investigation into a death in custody by the Prison and Probations Ombudsman and *(b)* the inquest and any other associated action in each financial year since 2007-08. [32898]

Mr Blunt: The information in the following table shows the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's average cost of an investigation into a death for each financial year since 2007-08. Also shown is the number of death in prison custody investigations for each financial year since 2007-08.

Data on PPO death investigations

	Average cost of a death investigation (£)	*Number of death in prison custody investigations*
2007-08	17,153	183
2008-09	16,436	164
2009-10	16,239	179

Inquests into deaths in prison custody are an inquisitorial fact-finding process heard by a coroner with a jury. Information on the legal costs incurred by NOMS for deaths in custody on such inquests since 2007 is as follows. They include the costs of the Treasury Solicitor, Counsel's fees and other disbursements.

	£ million
2007-08	1.8
2008-09	2.2
2009-10	2.7

Information about the costs incurred on such inquests by local authorities, who are responsible for funding the coroner system, is not held centrally.

The costs for any other associated action related to deaths in prison custody in each financial year since 2007-08 are unknown and can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of a prison place in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales was in the latest period for which figures are available. [32311]

Mr Blunt: For 2008-09 (latest period available), the overall average cost per place in England was £45,000 and, in Wales was £53,000 (figures to nearest 1,000).

The overall average cost for 2008-09 comprises the expenditure on public and private prisons (as recorded in the NOMS agency annual report and accounts), increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). This involves some estimation. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. Health and Education). The prisoner escort service costs are included. Expenditure recharged to the Youth Justice Board in respect of young people is included.

Cost per prison place is expressed in terms of the certified normal accommodation number of places; this gives a higher unit cost than the cost per prisoner.

Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 1115W, on the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, how many of the complaints to the ombudsman were upheld. [32784]

Mr Blunt: The information in the following table shows the numbers of complaints upheld by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman in the last three years. Also shown is the number of complaints deemed eligible for investigation.

Number of complaints upheld

	Eligible complaints received:		
Year[1]	*Prisoners and probation*	*Immigration detention*	*Number of complaints upheld*
2007-08	1,570	49	435
2008-09[2]	1,773	55	436
2009-10	2,255	69	633

[1] Years are April to March.

[2] The system for recording the number of complaints changed in this year.

Prisons and Probation Ombudsman: Operating Costs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report,* columns 1115-6W, on the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, what estimate he has made of the likely cost of that office in 2010-11. [32783]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has delegated a budget of £5.98 million for the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman in 2010-11. In addition funding of £65,000 is expected from other Departments.

Prisons: Construction

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect costs to the public purse to date of the commissioning process for the four 1,500 bed prisons to be built under the private finance initiative; and if he will make a statement. [32909]

Mr Blunt: Plans for a new 1,500 place prison have been deferred for the remainder of the current spending review period. Following the comprehensive spending review announcement on 20 October and the publication of the consultation Green Paper on sentencing and rehabilitation, we will now look in detail at the sentencing frameworks for adults and young offenders, and the full range of penalties currently available to sentencers

Approximately £0.6 million has been spent on financial and legal advice for the establishment of a PFI framework for potential 1,500 place new prisons (direct costs).

Indirect costs include those related to the search for suitable sites and planning for potential projects at Beam Park West in the London borough of Barking and Dagenham and Runwell in Essex. These are estimated to be around £2.7 million.

Prisons: Fires

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fires have there been in prisons in each of the last three years. [32786]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the total number of 'fire incidents' reported in the incident report system for prisons in England and Wales in each of the last three years. Fire incidents may be actual fires but could also include, for example, mischievous activation of fire alarms. To ascertain whether the incident was an actual fire would require the analysis of each individual incident report, which could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Total number of fire incidents for the last three years

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
Total number of fire incidents	1,030	996	729

[1] Up to and including November 2010, therefore not including the incident at HMP Ford on new year's day.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prisons: Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons have visitor centres; and what the cost of *(a)* establishing the centre and *(b)* running the centre in 2009-10 was in each case. [32785]

Mr Blunt: Details on the provision of dedicated visitors' centres are not held centrally. Prisons vary greatly in the availability of facilities from which services to visitors are provided. From April 2011 the provision of services will be set out in a National Offender Management Service specification to ensure a minimum service to visitors in England and Wales. This policy will apply whether or not a prison has a dedicated visitor centre. Funding for the provision of services to visitors is part of prison baseline funding and the costs cannot be disaggregated.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects on re-offending rates of prison visitor centres. [32792]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has not assessed specifically the effects on reoffending rates of the prison visitor centres. However, the Ministry of Justice Resettlement Survey 2008 showed that offenders could be 39% less likely to reoffend if they had received family visits while in custody.

Reoffenders: Young People

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the performance of Project Heron against its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [32564]

Mr Blunt: The formal evaluation of the Heron Project is due in March 2012.

However, initial findings about the project are promising and have shown that young people involved in the scheme are having positive experiences.

Restraint Techniques: Children

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether any restraint techniques that have been banned in secure training centres are permitted for use with children in *(a)* children's homes, *(b)* residential schools, *(c)* immigration removal centres and *(d)* NHS hospitals; [32281]

(2) what reports he has received of the *(a)* suspension and *(b)* ban of restraint techniques in secure training centres that have been used with children in (i) children's homes, (ii) residential schools, (iii) immigration removal centres and (iv) NHS hospitals. [32282]

Mr Blunt: The three restraint techniques which are no longer used in secure training centres are the 'nose distraction technique', the 'double basket hold' and the 'double seated embrace'.

Children's homes and residential schools are overseen by the Department for Education. Regulation 17(1) of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 provides that no measure of control, discipline or restraint which is excessive or unreasonable or contrary to paragraph (5) (which lists prohibited disciplinary measures) may be used at any time on a child accommodated in a children's home. Any use of the restraint techniques which have been banned in secure training centres are likely to be in breach of regulation 17(1).

In August 2009, the Director General for Children and Families in the (then) Department for Children, Schools and Families wrote to all providers of secure children's homes to inform them of the recommendations of the Independent Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings 2008. In particular, strongly recommending that neither of the restraint techniques known as "nose distraction" and "double basket hold" should be used.

All school staff members have a legal power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing a criminal offence; injuring themselves or others, or damaging property; and to maintain good order and discipline among pupils[1]. "The use of force to control or restrain pupils—Guidance for schools in England" was issued by the (then) Department for Children, Schools and Families in April 2010 to help school staff feel more confident about using force when it is right and necessary to do so. The guidance points out that a panel of experts identified that certain restraint techniques presented an unacceptable risk when used on children and young people. These techniques are the 'double seated embrace', 'the double basket hold' and the 'nose distraction technique'.

I have been informed by the Department of Health that there is no national list of either permitted or banned restraint techniques for use in NHS hospitals in England. But it is a requirement of regulations under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 that, where any form of control or restraint is used, the hospital provider must have suitable arrangements in place to protect service users against the risk of such control or restraint being unlawful or otherwise excessive.

I have also been informed by the Home Office that the 'nose distraction', 'double basket hold' and 'double seated embrace' techniques are not used in immigration removal centres.

[1] Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Supreme Court: Costs

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of the establishment of the Supreme Court. [32629]

Mr Djanogly: There has been no change to the figure of £57.6 million announced to this House on 11 March 2010.

Supreme Court: Operating Costs

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated running costs of the Supreme Court are for *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [32640]

Mr Djanogly: The estimated net running costs for the UK Supreme Court for 2010-11 are £6.305 million and for 2011-12 £6.036 million.

Trials and Sentencing

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research he is conducting into the operation of the principle of joint enterprise in criminal trials and sentencing policy; and if he will make a statement. [32896]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is not conducting research into the operation of the principle of joint enterprise in criminal trials and sentencing policy. The Law Commission published a report on Participating in Crime which examines the law in this area and this is being considered by officials together with a number of other reports.

EDUCATION

Children in Care

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children were in care in each year since 2007. [27984]

Tim Loughton: The requested information is included in the following table.

Children looked after at 31 March[1, 2, 3] Years ending 31 March 2007 to 2010
Coverage: England

				Number
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
All children looked after at 31 March	60,000	59,400	60,900	64,400

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

This information is also available as part of the Statistical First Release, Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2010. This can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

Information on the number of children who were in care at 31 March in each year since 2007 can be found in table A1. This table can be found in the excel link titled "England Summary tables".

Children's Centres: Day Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has made an estimate of the number of Sure Start children's centres which will offer full day care in deprived areas following the phasing out of the requirement to do so. [31013]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 16 December 2010]*: We have not made an estimate.

The Government are committed to increasing the focus of children's centres on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged families in their communities. Local areas are best placed to assess their communities' needs and local demand for early education and care.

We have removed the overly prescriptive requirement for all children's centres in the most disadvantaged areas to provide full day care where there is no demand. However, local authorities remain responsible for ensuring that there is sufficient high-quality early education and care across the whole of their community, and many children's centres will continue to provide full day care depending on demand.

We expect children's centres in the most disadvantaged areas to continue to provide high quality early education and care as part of their integrated support for families, including free nursery education for two, three, and four-year-olds and additional hours where there is demand. Centres should make sure that disadvantaged families get priority when these places are allocated.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the amount that it will save by phasing out the requirement for Sure Start children's centres to offer full day care in deprived areas. [31014]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 16 December 2010]*: The Department has not made an estimate of the total amount of money which could be saved by phasing out the requirement for Sure Start Children's Centres to offer full day care in deprived areas. Early education and care services in children's centres are intended to be self-sustaining from parental fees, Government funding for free nursery education for two, three and four-year-olds, and other local authority sources.

In the past, children's centres in the most disadvantaged areas were required to provide full day care, i.e. 10 hours a day, five hours a week, for 48 weeks a year. However, the National Audit Office Memorandum for the Children's Schools and Families Committee, December 2009, suggested that in some areas, when demand for full day care is low, money intended for other Sure Start services—like family support and outreach to vulnerable families—is subsidising the provision of early education and care. By removing the requirement for children's centres in the most disadvantaged areas to provide full day care where there is no demand, we are enabling local authorities and children's centres to use their money more flexibly to intervene early and reach the most vulnerable families more effectively.

Departmental Publications

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the expenditure of his Department and its predecessors on printing *(a)* Command Papers, *(b)* papers laid before Parliament by Act, *(c)* consultation documents and *(d)* other papers in each of the last 10 years. [28384]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not hold a central record of its expenditure on the requested items and cannot obtain the information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the number of questions to his Department tabled in the *(a)* House of Commons and *(b)* House of Lords that remained unanswered after 10 working days as a result of observation of guidance on the timing of answers to similar questions tabled to more than one Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [28491]

Tim Loughton: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) on 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 885W.

In the case of questions that are deemed to be "round robin", The Guide to Parliamentary Work, published by the Leader of the House of Commons:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/guide_to_parliamentary_work.pdf

states that Departments should not delay preparing an answer until 'round robin' advice is provided, and should not miss the target deadlines for this reason.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Darlington

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many young people in Darlington participated in further education in each of the last three years prior to the introduction of education maintenance allowance; [30074]

(2) how many young people in Darlington participated in further education in academic year 2009-10. [30075]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 December 2010]*: Estimates of participation in education and training for young people in each local authority (LA) in England are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. The full SFR can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/index.shtml

The latest figures, for end 2008, show that an estimated 91% of young people of academic age 16 (usually those in their first year after compulsory education) in Darlington LA were in some form of education or work-based learning (WBL) at the end of 2008. Education maintenance allowance (EMA) was introduced nationally from September 2004. The following time-series shows numbers in education in Darlington for the three years prior to its introduction, and for every year subsequently for which data are available.

Participation in education and work based learning (WBL) of academic age 16-year-olds

Darlington LA	*Number*	*Percentage*
2001	1,100	84
2002	1,100	82
2003	1,000	82
2004	1,100	85
2005	1,100	83
2006	1,200	87
2007	1,200	88
2008	1,200	91

Education: Assessments

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the Assessing Pupils Progress scheme. [30458]

Mr Gibb: Skilled and precise assessment of pupils' work is an essential part of good teaching, but we do not intend to prescribe national requirements as to how this should be done.

Assessing Pupils' Progress (APP) is a voluntary approach to tracking pupils' progress and it is for schools to decide if they want to use it or not. We will continue to make APP resources available to schools to access should they wish to, but we will consolidate them to significantly reduce the amount of information schools have to navigate.

Education: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people resident in *(a)* West Ham constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Newham were not in education, employment or training (i) in 2008, (ii) in 2009 and (iii) on the latest date for which figures are available. [31684]

Mr Gibb: Official estimates of the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June and can be found on the Department's website.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/index.shtml

These estimates cannot be broken down below national level. However, Connexions Services collect information on the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET in each local authority area, which are published annually of the DFE website.

http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/participation/neet/a0064101/strategies-for-16-to-18-year-olds-not-in-education-employment-or-training-neet

Connexions figures for the London borough of Newham at the end of 2008 and 2009 are shown as follows. As the number of young people NEET varies widely throughout the academic year, comparisons can only be made with the same period each year and figures for the end of 2010 are not due to be published in April 2011. The Department for Education does not collect Connexions data at parliamentary constituency level.

	16 to 18-year-olds NEET	
	Number	*Proportion (percentage)*
2008	640	7.7
2009	540	6.7

Financial Services: Education

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will discuss with Teach First the teaching of financial capability as part of teacher training. [29613]

Mr Gibb: The recently published schools White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' sets out how schools will be freed from the constraints of central Government direction, including trusting the professional judgment of teachers to support all children to progress. Teachers, rather than Government, have the expertise to identify the resources that meet the needs of their pupils.

We have also announced our intention to hold an internal review of Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) education, which includes finance education. More details will be announced in the new year.

Any conclusions from this review that might lead to changes in teacher training will be notified to all teacher training providers, including Teach First.

Free School Meals: Costs

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of providing free school meals to all children in primary schools in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [30041]

Mr Gibb: The estimated annual cost of offering universal free school meals (FSM) provision for children from Nursery to Year 6, would have been £1.8 billion per annum in 2010, rising to £2 billion in 2014. There is also an additional one-off cost of just under £80 million in capital spending that would be required to provide the additional meals in 2010.

This estimate is based on cost per child estimates produced by HM Treasury and Child Poverty Unit (adjusted for inflation), and DfE estimates on the number of additional children who would take FSM if there is universal provision instead of the current FSM entitlement criteria.

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* objectives are of his Department's Free Schools Group. [29398]

Mr Gibb: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her on 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1242W. The purpose and objectives of the Free Schools Group are to develop policy and provide support to groups and individuals who are interested in establishing a new school.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many enquiries his Department has received from parties interested in setting up free schools to date. [29788]

Mr Gibb: As referred to in the recent White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching', the Department has received over 180 proposals from groups and individuals interested in establishing a free school.

Languages: Finance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department expects to provide for the Language Assistants programme after the 2011-12 academic year. [31533]

Mr Gibb: The Department has allocated around £700,000 a year in each of the next four years to the Language Assistants programme. The exact amount will be discussed and agreed with the delivery organisation prior to the start of each financial year, as is usual practice.

New Schools Network

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 274W, on the New Schools Network, how many items of feedback his Department has received on the quality and timeliness of the service provided by that organisation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such item. [26398]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education does not systematically collect details of feedback received on the New Schools Network. Verbal feedback on the New Schools Network from proposers has been positive.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 920W, on the Children, Schools and Families Act 2010, if he will place in the Library a copy of each document on each file on Clauses 11 to 14 of the Children, Schools and Families Bill of Session 2009-10 that relates to *(a)* sex education and *(b)* general PSHE policy; and if he will make a statement. [29841]

Mr Gibb: Clauses 11-14 of the Children, Schools and Families Bill 2009-10 that relate to sex education and general PSHE policy are:

a. education about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs

b. education about emotional health and well-being

c. sex and relationships education

d. education about nutrition and physical activity

e. education about personal finance

f. education about individual safety, and

g. careers, business and economic education

The Department holds many documents relating to the above subjects and to place a copy of all such documents in the House of Commons Library would take a disproportionate amount of time and exceed the acceptable cost threshold for answering PQs.

Religion: English Baccalaureate

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to include religious studies as a humanities subject in the English Baccalaureate. [30486]

Mr Gibb: For the purposes of the 2010 Performance Tables, history or geography will count towards the humanities element of the English Baccalaureate. We will review the precise definition of the English Baccalaureate for the 2011 Tables, but would not expect to remove any of the qualifications identified for the 2010 Tables.

The English Baccalaureate will give pupils the opportunity to study a core of academic subjects. This does not mean that we wish to restrict choices or opportunities for wider study, and the core of subjects in the English Baccalaureate is small enough to allow for that. Study in other subjects will also be valuable to pupils and we will encourage all pupils to study others subjects alongside the core English Baccalaureate, in order to get a well rounded education.

We recognise, as many schools do, the benefits that religious studies can bring to pupils. This is why the teaching of religious studies remains compulsory throughout a pupil's time at school. Success in all subjects studied at GCSE, including religious studies, will also continue to be recognised by other performance table measures, as it has in the past.

Schools: Admissions

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the number of surplus places available at schools in *(a)* Reading East constituency and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [30015]

Mr Gibb: The Department collects information from each local authority on the number of surplus school places in maintained schools (except special schools) through an annual survey. The numbers of surplus places are reported at local authority level and not broken down by constituency. Information on surplus school capacity is not collected from independent schools. However, the Department is able to establish where there is spare capacity in academies as they return data on the number of agreed pupil places as set out in their funding agreements.

As at May 2010, there were 212 surplus places in John Madejski Academy in Reading. In maintained primary schools there were 1,596 surplus places and in maintained secondary schools there were 977 surplus places.

Copies have been placed in the House Libraries of the most recent data available relating to the position in maintained schools and academies at May 2010 and surplus places information from previous years' survey results. Information on school capacity within academies is available since 2008.

Schools: Languages

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of children at key stage 2 in maintained schools who are studying at least one modern foreign language. [31153]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 December 2010]*: Research published by the Department in July 2009 showed that 92% of primary schools were teaching languages to at least some of their year groups at key stage 2. 69% of primary schools were teaching it to all four year groups. In most cases, this included all pupils within key stage 2.

Social Services: Children

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many serious incident notifications subsequent to the death of a child under one year of age were received by Ofsted in each quarter since April 2007. [25634]

Tim Loughton: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 8 December 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

All the available Ofsted data have been checked and the information on serious incident notifications subsequent to the death of a child under one year of age is presented in the table at the end of this letter. The table shows the quarter in which the incident occurred, rather than that in which Ofsted was notified, because a record of when each notification was received is available for most, but not all of the earlier data.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Tim Loughton MP, Minister for Children and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Notifications of child deaths aged under one year

Quarter period	*Number*
April to June 2007	9
July to September 2007	10

Notifications of child deaths aged under one year

Quarter period	*Number*
October to December 2007	21
January to March 2008	18
April to June 2008	16
July to September 2008	10
October to December 2008	27
January to March 2009	12
April to June 2009	28
July to September 2009	11
October to December 2009	19
January to March 2010	17
April to June 2010	10
July to September 2010	16

Vocational Education

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the future of vocational learning in schools; and if he will make a statement. [30612]

Mr Gibb: I have asked Professor Alison Wolf to carry out a review of vocational education for 14 to 19-year-olds. Her review will consider the organisation, funding, and target audience for vocational education, and the principles that should underpin the content, structure and teaching methods. As part of the review, Professor Wolf has carried out a public call for evidence, which promoted a large number of responses which she is taking into consideration as her review progresses. Professor Wolf will report in spring 2011, and her findings will inform any future development of vocational education in schools.

Young People: Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future funding of training for school drugs advisers. [32060]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* Funding to support vulnerable young people and to intervene early to prevent problems such as drug and alcohol misuse is available through the Early Intervention Grant. The grant allows local areas the freedom and flexibility to invest in early intervention according to their local priorities and the needs of local children, families and young people. Substance misuse will also be a priority for Public Health England with directors of Public Health and of Children's Services expected to develop a joint local approach to preventing and tackling drug and alcohol misuse.

As set out in the Government's new Drug Strategy published earlier this month drug education should be part of a broader approach developed at the local level and covering prevention, early intervention and specialist support for those young people who need it.

TREASURY

BBC

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby of 30 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 677W, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting between Treasury officials and the Director-General of the BBC on 15 April 2010. [32584]

Danny Alexander: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide specific details of all such discussions.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Mr Marsden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account he took of the *(a)* funding components for, *(b)* net income of, *(c)* cash flow surplus of and *(d)* market value of the Local Government Pension Scheme in determining whether to include it in his proposals for changes to employee contribution rates to public sector pensions. [31500]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The Government announced changes to employee pension contribution rates for public servants, including local government workers, at the spending review based on the rationale set out in the interim report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission led by Lord Hutton of Furness.

The report shows that public service pensions have become more valuable, for example the value of a public service pension in 2003-04 is expected to be around a third higher than it would have been if life expectancy assumptions were the same as in 1955. The significant majority of the cost of these increases in value has fallen to local and national taxpayers.

The report goes on to say that there is a clear rationale for increasing member contributions to ensure a fairer distribution of costs between taxpayers and members.

While this policy will contribute to the sustainability of the LGPS it does not directly affect the long-term funding of the LGPS, which is dependent on the level of total contributions that is determined at triennial valuations. Factors such as those you have listed would be considered at these valuations.

Government Departments: Cost-effectiveness

Jim Shannon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his ministerial colleagues on the implementation of efficiency savings in the comprehensive spending review period. [30562]

Danny Alexander: The spending review set firm and fixed spending budgets for all Government Departments for the rest of this Parliament. Departments will need to make efficiency savings to ensure that they live within their budgets. This is an ongoing process to which the Government are fully committed. Specific measures being taken to encourage and support efficient use of budgets include:

A reduction in administration budgets of 34% across the whole of Whitehall and its arm's length bodies over the next spending period saving £5.9 billion a year by 2014-15; and radically reducing the number of arm's length bodies across Government.

Subjecting central Government functions to a tough new efficiency regime, monitored and supported by the new Efficiency and Reform Group (ERG) which is chaired by me as Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr Maude). This includes driving savings in areas such as procurement, property and major contracts.

Greater transparency across Government's operations to enable the public to hold public bodies and politicians to account. This includes publication of individual items of spending over £25,000, all new contracts, tenders over £10,000, and the pay of senior civil servants.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Orders and Regulations: Parliamentary Scrutiny

Mr Offord: To ask the Leader of the House if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Standing Orders of the House to allow further time to debate statutory instruments. [32744]

Sir George Young: I have no current plans to do so.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Overseas Aid

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the change in real terms in the UK's Official Development Assistance will be in each year between 2010-11 and 2013-14. [32435]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The spending review settlement provided resources to maintain the UK's ratio of Official Development Assistance to gross national income at 0.56% for 2011 and 2012 and to achieve a ratio of 0.7% from 2013. The settlement set out projections of total UK ODA for each calendar year. Total UK ODA is projected to increase in real terms by 2% in 2011, 4% in 2012 and 31% in 2013. This settlement makes the UK the first G8 country to set out concrete spending plans to meet the 0.7% target.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks and Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to involve treatment providers in the design of specifications for *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug addiction treatment services; and to what extent such specifications will be devolved to a local level; [32808]

(2) what steps he plans to take to simplify the tendering process for *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug addiction treatment services; [32809]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to require GPs to establish partnerships with local providers of *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug treatment services. [32811]

Anne Milton: 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health' sets out our vision for the future of drug and alcohol services which we propose will be funded from the new public health budget and commissioned by local authorities as part of their new public health role.

In addition, the 'Drug Strategy 2010. Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery: Supporting People to live a drug free life' sets out how treatment services will be commissioned locally to take account the needs of communities. This would include local engagement with general practitioner consortiums and treatment providers.

Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

Arthritis

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to establish a National Quality Standard for rheumatoid arthritis. [32561]

Paul Burstow: The case for developing a quality standard on rheumatoid arthritis will be considered as part of work to commission a comprehensive library of such standards from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, in line with plans set out in the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'.

Bone Diseases: Health Services

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the quality of ankylosing spondylitis services in England. [32507]

Paul Burstow: Health care providers must be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in order to provide health care services. Providers need to meet the CQC's essential requirements for quality and safety of services in order to be registered and to continue to be registered.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether an estimate has been made of the cost of ankylosing spondylitis to the *(a)* NHS and *(b)* economy in each of the last five years. [32508]

Paul Burstow: The information is not available because the Department does not collect the cost to the national health service of treating individual diagnoses.

General Practitioners: North East England

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has received a business plan from the *(a)* Newcastle Bridges, *(b)* Langbaurgh and *(c)* County Durham and Darlington GP commissioning consortium; [32171]

(2) whether the *(a)* Newcastle Bridges, *(b)* Langbaurgh and *(c)* County Durham and Darlington GP commissioning consortium holds a contract with Egton Medical Information Systems Ltd; [32172]

(3) what the membership is of the managing group of the *(a)* Newcastle Bridges, *(b)* Langbaurgh and *(c)* County Durham and Darlington GP commissioning consortium; and which members are (i) registered doctors, (ii) registered nurses and (iii) others. [32185]

Mr Simon Burns: On 8 December 2010, the first groups of general practitioners (GPs) who will take the lead in the Government's plans for commissioning health services were announced. 52 groups of GP practices from across England have been selected to be the first to take on commissioning responsibilities as part of the Government's plans set out in the NHS White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'.

The Department does not hold the specific information requested. The information may be best obtained through strategic health authorities, who are responsible for managing the selection process for the GP pathfinders.

Health Centres

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to provide information to the public on GP-led commissioning. [32467]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department published the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' on 12 July 2010, setting out plans to transfer the commissioning of the majority of NHS services to general practitioner (GP) consortium supported by the NHS Commissioning Board. 'Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps', published on 15 December 2010, confirms the Department's intention to carry these reforms through and sets out in more detail how we propose that consortium will operate. Both of these documents are publicly available on the Department of Health website.

The Department will be introducing the Health and Social Care Bill shortly, which will include details on GP-led commissioning. The Department will be communicating to the public, patients and staff about the content of the Bill.

In addition, the Department announced the first group of GP consortium to join a national pathfinder programme in December as part of a series of rolling admissions onto the programme over the coming months. Communications around this programme are likely to include public facing elements with communications through the media, as well as staff and public facing stakeholder groups.

As the Department develops its proposals for GP-led commissioning, it will continue to engage with clinicians, professional organisations and the public in order to inform them of their plans and utilise their expertise in implementing the reforms.

Going forward, one of the principal aims of GP commissioning is to make decisions more sensitive and responsive to the needs and wishes of patients and the public. Good communication and engagement with the public will be vital. The forthcoming Bill will place a duty on GP consortium and the NHS Commissioning Board to ensure that people who may receive a service are involved in its planning and development, and to promote and extend public and patient involvement and choice.

Health Visitors: Greater London

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the planned new health visitor posts will *(a)* be full-time and *(b)* be located in Greater London. [32552]

Anne Milton: The Department will publish 'Health Visiting Implementation plan—A Call to Action', early in the new year, which will set out the Government's commitment to a larger, re-energised health visiting service. This will deliver a new model of support to families, building on the Healthy Child Programme, and will provide further clarification to how this increase will be achieved and what the expectations of strategic health authorities and service providers will be.

The plan supports the 'Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011/12', which identified health visiting provision as a key service priority for the national health service over the next year.

HIV Infection

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many HIV diagnoses there were *(a)* in each ethnic minority group and *(b)* in total in each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10. [32449]

Anne Milton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of new HIV diagnoses made in England, by ethnic group, 2005-09

	Year of diagnosis				
Ethnic group	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
White	2,802	2,879	3,082	2,964	2,878
Black Caribbean	268	253	219	245	225
Black African	3,712	3,274	2,867	2,727	2,084
Black Other	118	124	136	149	126
Indian subcontinent	102	120	128	139	103
Other/mixed	346	330	308	339	280
Other Asian/ Oriental	33	41	57	75	112
Not reported	88	75	130	182	304
Total	7,469	7,096	6,927	6,820	6,112

Notes:

1. Data are presented as first HIV diagnosis in England in each calendar year.
2. Diagnoses are from reports received to end June 2010. Numbers will rise as further reports are received.
3. The number of new diagnoses where ethnicity is "not reported" will decrease as routine follow-up is conducted.

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost per patient was of antiretroviral therapy for HIV in the latest year for which figures are available. [32450]

Anne Milton: The estimated annual cost of HIV antiretroviral therapy per patient is £7,000 to £10,000 per year. Costs will vary depending on commissioning arrangements and an individual's clinical stage of HIV. For patients with complex treatment needs, antiretroviral drug costs will exceed £10,000 a year.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department spent on HIV prevention in each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10; [32452]

(2) how much of his Department's expenditure on HIV prevention was targeted at people of African origin in each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10; [32453]

(3) which organisations received funding from his Department for HIV prevention for people of African origin between 2005-06 to 2009-10; and how much funding was allocated to each organisation in each year; [32454]

(4) how much funding from his Department each *(a)* Department of central Government, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* primary care trust spent on HIV prevention in each year since 2005-06. [32455]

Anne Milton: The Department has contracts with the Terrence Higgins Trust and the African Health Policy Network (AHPN) for national programmes of HIV prevention for men who have sex with men and African communities respectively. The total amount spent by the Department in each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10 on HIV prevention is shown in the following table.

	Amount (£)
2005-06	1,600,000
2006-07	2,585,000
2007-08	2,835,000
2008-09	2,705,000
2009-10	2,922,000

The Department funds the AHPN specifically for HIV prevention. The AHPN is an umbrella organisation for African communities in England. The AHPN commissions a programme of African HIV prevention interventions with community based organisations across England. The amount allocated to the AHPN for HIV prevention work is shown in the following table.

	Amount (£)
2005-06	400,00
2006-07	785,000
2007-08	1,035,000
2008-09	805,000
2009-10	1,022,000

The Department does not fund other central Government Departments, local authorities or primary care trusts (PCTs) for HIV prevention work. PCTs fund NHS HIV prevention taking account of local needs and priorities.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people of each *(a)* gender and *(b)* ethnicity were recorded as having HIV in each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10. [32456]

Anne Milton: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Number of people (all ages) living with diagnosed HIV infection in England, by gender: 2005-09

Gender	*2005*[1]	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Male	28,171	31,078	33,964	36,728	39,510
Female	14,885	16,614	18,003	19,605	20,730
Total	43,061	47,692	51,967	56,333	60,240

[1] In 2005, five people were reported with gender data unavailable.

Source:

Health Protection Agency

Number of people (all ages) living with diagnosed HIV infection in England, by ethnic group: 2005-09[1]

Ethnic group	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
White	21,290	23,437	25,648	27,642	29,821
Black Caribbean	1,328	1,479	1,625	1,781	1,904
Black African	16,570	18,364	19,687	21,251	22,220
Black other	748	872	947	1,076	1,178
Indian sub continent	516	601	686	781	853
Other/ mixed	1,763	1,934	2,126	2,319	2,501
Other Asian/ Oriental	585	671	777	862	961
Not reported	261	334	471	621	802
Total	43,061	47,692	51,967	56,333	60,240

[1] These data are from SOPHID (survey of prevalent HIV infections diagnosed) which calculates the number of diagnosed HIV infected individuals accessing care. These data do not include patients who are living with an undiagnosed HIV infection.

Source:

Health Protection Agency

John Radcliffe Hospital: Heart Diseases

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the costs of implementing the organisational recommendations of the NHS Safe and Sustainable review of children's congenital cardiac services; [32516]

(2) what assessment he has made of the findings of the July 2010 review of paediatric cardiac surgery and clinical governance at the Oxford John Radcliffe Paediatric Cardiac Surgery Unit; [32517]

(3) what representations he has received from *(a)* families of former patients and *(b)* others on the conduct of the review of paediatric cardiac surgery and clinical governance at the Oxford John Radcliffe Paediatric Cardiac Surgery Unit; [32518]

(4) for what reasons the option of keeping open the John Radcliffe Hospital's Paediatric Cardiac Surgery Unit was not considered in the NHS Safe and Sustainable review of children's congenital cardiac services in England; [32519]

(5) what account the NHS Safe and Sustainable review of children's congenital cardiac services in England has taken of the findings of the July 2010 review of paediatric cardiac surgery and clinical governance at the Oxford John Radcliffe Paediatric Cardiac Surgery Unit; [32520]

(6) whether the consultation document prepared as part of the NHS Safe and Sustainable review of children's congenital cardiac services in England will consult on the option of keeping Oxford John Radcliffe Paediatric Cardiac Surgery Unit open; [32521]

(7) when the consultation document prepared as part of the NHS Safe and Sustainable review of children's congenital cardiac services in England will be published. [32522]

Mr Simon Burns: A robust financial analysis, including the estimated costs relating to implementation, is being undertaken as part of the option appraisal process. The Joint Committee of primary care trusts (JCPCT)[1], the main decision-making body for the review, will take into consideration financial appraisal of the options when making its final decision on future options of configuration.

The Secretary of State is aware of the findings of the review of paediatric cardiac surgery and clinical governance at the Oxford John Radcliffe Paediatric Cardiac Surgery Unit.

The independent review was commissioned by the South Central strategic health authority and has concluded that the four child deaths which led to the review being undertaken were not attributable to poor surgical practice. The children who died had complex conditions and were at a high risk for surgery. However, the findings raised a number of procedural and governance issues, which need to be addressed by the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust. It recommended the continued suspension of the service pending a decision on its future place within the national service by the NHS Safe and Sustainable review.

The Department has received seven representations on the conduct of the review of paediatric cardiac surgery and clinical governance at the Oxford John Radcliffe Paediatric Cardiac Surgery Unit, including three pieces of correspondence from families of former patients.

On the basis of information currently available, the Safe and Sustainable review team is likely to recommend to the JCPCT that the eventual options for reconfiguration that are put out for public consultation in 2011 do not include the paediatric cardiac surgery service at the Oxford John Radcliffe hospital. The review team have considered the outcome of an independent assessment of all paediatric cardiac surgery services in England in May and June 2010 by an expert panel chaired by Professor Sir Ian Kennedy.

The purpose of the Safe and Sustainable assessment process was to assess the ability of the current paediatric cardiac surgery services to meet new standards in the future. The outcome of this assessment was that that service at the Oxford John Radcliffe hospital received the lowest ranking assessment of the current 11 centres, by a significant margin.

The Safe and Sustainable review team undertook further work to determine whether the location of the Oxford John Radcliffe hospital could justify its inclusion in potential options on the grounds that this would improve overall access for children and families. This showed that, in the national context of a reduction in number of units, the inclusion of the John Radcliffe hospital unit in the potential options would not improve overall access for children and families.

Not being included in options for consultation does not mean that the JCPCT has made any decision about the future of the service at the Oxford John Radcliffe hospital.

The review of paediatric cardiac surgery and clinical governance at the Oxford John Radcliffe paediatric cardiac surgery unit was conducted separately from the NHS Safe and Sustainable review, and did not form part of the Safe and Sustainable Review assessment process. The purpose of the Safe and Sustainable assessment process was to assess the ability of paediatric cardiac surgery services to meet new service standards in the future.

The JCPCT aims to agree recommendations for reconfiguration at a public meeting in the next few months. These recommendations will be published for a full public consultation in 2011. A final decision about the future of the service at the Oxford John Radcliffe hospital and the other current services will not be made until the outcome of the public consultation has been considered. Parents, national health service staff and the public will have the opportunity to make their views known during the consultation process, including on the future of the service at the Oxford John Radcliffe hospital.

It is currently planned that the consultation document will be published in February 2011, subject to the decision by the JCPCT.

[1] *The JCPCT was established as part of the NHS Safe and Sustainable programme to develop the consultation document on behalf of PCTs and take decisions on issues, which are the subject of consultation*

Organs: Donors

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish guidelines for the harvesting of non-heart beating organs from accident and emergency units; and if he will make a statement. [32743]

Anne Milton: The Department recently organised a workshop in association with the College of Emergency Medicine and NHS Blood and Transplant. The aims of the workshop were to explore the key issues surrounding the role of Emergency Medicine in organ donation, including non-heart beating donation, and through discussion to gain as much consensus as possible.

The Department is currently preparing a consensus document based on an analysis of the workshop, that could be helpful in optimising the potential for donation from Emergency Medicine, including obtaining consent from relatives and increasing donor rates.

Orphan Drugs

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department plans to provide guidance to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on developing a separate appraisal procedure for ultra-orphan drugs; [32619]

(2) whether his Department plans to issue guidance to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the development of a separate appraisal procedure for ultra-orphan drugs. [32831]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no such plans. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is an independent body and is responsible for developing its own appraisal processes and methods, in consultation with stakeholders.

Chronic Pain

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with chronic pain in each year since 2000. [32372]

Paul Burstow: The information is not available centrally. Information is available on the number of episodes of care in specialist settings for patients with chronic pain, but this would not give information on new diagnoses—many patients may be coming back for further treatment after an initial assessment, the majority of patients with chronic pain are managed in primary care and information is not routinely available.

Chronic Pain

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on chronic pain in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [32373]

Paul Burstow: Estimated expenditure on chronic pain in England for financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09 is given in the following table. Estimates are not available before this date.

Estimated expenditure on chronic pain in England, 2006-07 to 2008-09

Financial year	*Gross expenditure (£000)*
2006-07	1,007,704
2007-08	1,155,768
2008-09	1,170,652

Notes:

1. Expenditure figures are from estimated England level programme budgeting data, which are calculated using primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority programme budgeting returns and Department of Health Resource Accounts data. Figures will include an estimation of special health authority expenditure.

2. In order to improve data quality, continual refinements have been made to the programme budgeting data calculation methodology since the first collection in 2003-04. The underlying data which support programme budgeting data are also subject to yearly changes. Caution is therefore advised when using programme budgeting data to draw conclusions on changes in PCT spending patterns between years.

3. Figures include expenditure across all sectors. Disease specific expenditures do not include expenditure on prevention, or costs associated with the time of general practitioners or other primary care professionals, but do include prescribing expenditure.

4. Data for subcategories such as chronic pain are expected to be less robust than data on main categories such as neurological conditions.

Social Services: Inspections

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the maximum length of time between site visits to social care providers will be under the new inspection methodology and staffing complement proposed for the Care Quality Commission. [32551]

Paul Burstow: The new registration system for private and voluntary health care and adult social care providers was set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (the 2008 Act). It came into effect from 1 October 2010.

The 2008 Act does not set minimum inspection frequencies for services. Instead it allows the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to adopt a risk-based approach and discussions about when to inspect are based on intelligence and an assessment of risk.

In terms of staffing, CQC is an independent body and it is therefore for CQC to determine the appropriate staffing complement in order to carry out its functions efficiently and effectively.

The following information has been provided by CQC:

> Under CQC's new inspection methodology, every Adult Social Care provider is due to get a planned review every two years. As the new methodology only came into force on 1 October 2010 it is too early to give a clear estimate of how many site visits will be made, or the length of time between visits. CQC is not planning any further changes to the methodology in the next 12 months.
>
> The methodology does not prescribe a set frequency or duration for visits. In line with the principles of risk-based regulation, CQC carries out visits in line with its judgement of risk when these are the most effective way of gathering information about compliance. This means CQC targets its resources on providers where the risk is highest, while reducing the regulatory burden on providers where the risk is low.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average number of site visits to be made to social care providers each year under the new inspection methodology and staffing complement proposed for the Care Quality Commission. [32565]

Paul Burstow: The new registration system for private and voluntary health care and adult social care providers was set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (the 2008 Act). It came into effect from 1 October 2010.

The 2008 Act does not set minimum inspection frequencies for services. Instead it allows the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to adopt a risk-based approach and discussions about when to inspect are based on intelligence and an assessment of risk. Given that decisions are based on risk, and the new methodology has only been in place since October, we have no estimate of the average number of visits.

In terms of staffing, CQC is an independent body and it is therefore for CQC to determine the appropriate staffing complement in order to carry out its functions efficiently and effectively.

The following information has been provided by CQC:

> Under CQCs new inspection methodology, every Adult Social Care provider is due to get a planned review every two years. As the new methodology only came into force on 1 October 2010 it is too early to give a clear estimate of how many site visits will be made.
>
> CQC anticipate that 55% of its reviews will be responsive and 45% planned. A planned or responsive review will not necessarily involve a site visit if there are no known risk factors to trigger one. This is in line with the principles of better regulation. CQC has emphasised in it's methodology that it expects a larger number of shorter, focused inspections to look at particular outcomes.

CABINET OFFICE

Advisory Bodies: Publications

Dr Huppert: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance his Department issues to Government Departments on the publication of the minutes and agenda items of statutory advisory committees. [32613]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 10 January 2011]:* Guidance on the publication of proceedings of meetings by public bodies is set out in the Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies: A Guide for Departments". A copy of the Cabinet Office "Guide" can be downloaded from:

> www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/public-bodies-and-appointments

A copy is also available from the Libraries of the House.

Business: Closures

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses have ceased trading in the *(a)* Richmond-upon-Thames and *(b)* Kingston-upon-Thames local authority area in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [33128]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many businesses have ceased trading in the (a) Richmond-upon-Thames and (b) Kingston-upon-Thames local authority area in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [33128]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births, deaths and survivals are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, which show enterprise deaths for Richmond-upon-Thames and Kingston-upon-Thames in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Enterprise deaths for Richmond-upon-Thames and Kingston-upon-Thames in 2007, 2008 and 2009

			Number
	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Richmond-upon-Thames	1,125	1,150	1,410
Kingston-upon-Thames	790	740	995

Employment: Disability

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people identifying themselves as disabled were in employment in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London in each of the last three years. [32460]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people identifying themselves as disabled were in employment in (a) the London Borough of Bexley and (b) Greater London in each of the last three years. (32460)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of people identifying themselves as disabled who were in employment in Greater London and the London Borough of Bexley, for the 12 month periods ending in December from 2007 to 2009 from the APS, along with the latest estimate for the 12 months ending June 2010.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in the table.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of disabled[1] people in employment

		Thousands
12 month ending	*Greater London*	*Bexley*
December 2007	347	12
December 2008	364	13
December 2009	374	13
June 2010[2]	*389	***15

[1] People who are DDA disabled or have a work limiting disability.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 = CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ? 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

CV = Coefficient of Variation

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Employment: Harlow

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were in employment in Harlow constituency in each year since 2000. [32289]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were employed in Harlow constituency in each year from 2000 to 2010. (032289)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The Harlow parliamentary constituency changed to new boundaries at the 2010 general election. Figures for the current Harlow parliamentary constituency are only available from 2004.

Table 1 shows the number of persons in employment resident in Harlow parliamentary constituency for the 12 month periods ending in December from 2004 to 2009 from the APS, along with the latest estimate for the period ending June 2010.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons[1] in employment resident in Harlow parliamentary constituency

12 month period ending	*Thousand*
December 2004	44
December 2005	43

Table 1: Number of persons[1] in employment resident in Harlow parliamentary constituency

12 month period ending:	*Thousand*
December 2006	47
December 2007	47
December 2008	44
December 2009	44
June 2010	***42

[1] Persons aged 16 and over

Note:

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 = CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ? 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Legal Services Commission: Procurement

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what work has been undertaken by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) under the Supplier Feedback Service in respect of the complaint against the Legal Services Commission (LSC) in 2010; when he expects that work to be concluded; and what mechanisms are in place for the OGC to take steps together with *(a)* the LSC and *(b)* Ministers in response to that work. [32092]

Mr Maude: OGC is now part of the Cabinet Office. The Supplier Feedback Service wrote to the LSC in November asking them to provide a response, by 22 December, to the concerns raised by a supplier. The SFS has received the response and requested further clarification from LSC by 14 January. The SFS will decide upon the next steps once this clarification has been provided, and expects to be able to respond to the complainant by 31 January.

Unemployment: Richmond Park

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in Richmond Park constituency were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [32968]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Richmond Park constituency were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. (32968)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

The number of claimants of JSA in the Richmond Park constituency in November 2010 was 1,168.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 12 January 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: Public Expenditure

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport with reference to his letter of 20 October 2010 to the Chairman of the BBC Trust on the 2010 Spending Review, what his policy is on requesting the BBC to take on additional responsibilities or activities for the duration of the period of the Spending Review settlement; and if he will make a statement. [33025]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My letter of 21 October to the Chair of the BBC Trust confirmed that the Government have undertaken to provide a full financial settlement to the end of the year 2016-17, with no new financial requirements or fresh obligations of any kind being placed on the BBC and/or licence fee revenues in this period except by mutual agreement.

Broadband: Suffolk

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the suitability of Suffolk for designation as a pilot area in the next round of Government broadband pilots. [33181]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State announced on 6 December that £50 million would be made available for the next round of broadband projects. Bids for support for projects will be invited from local authorities in April 2011 on the basis of guidance from Broadband Delivery UK, to be issued in the near future. At that point, any bid from Suffolk will be given the same consideration as all the others submitted.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to increase adult participation in sport in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* London and *(c)* nationally prior to the London 2012 Olympics. [32081]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England is the arm's length body with responsibility for community sport. Their aim is to increase and sustain levels of participation in sport.

National governing bodies of sport (NGBs) are responsible for the strategy, delivering through their networks of community clubs, coaches and volunteers, across all parts of the country. Sport England is investing £480 million through 46 governing bodies over the next four years and has agreed 'grow' and 'sustain' targets with each one. Each sport has developed a whole sport plan to achieve these targets.

Additionally, the £135 million mass participation Olympic legacy—Places People Play—was launched in November and will benefit residents of the west midlands, London and the country more widely. This programme will be funded by lottery money and has been developed in partnership with Sport England, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), the British Olympic Association (BOA) and the British Paralympic Association (BPA).

In addition to the benefits this investment will bring to these areas, in terms of the west midlands, Sport England has also directly invested in a number of projects including a grant of £130,000 to the Cannock Trails Mountain Biking Centre and a grant of £200,000 to the Oswestry Leisure Centre.

Investment into London includes Sport England's £1.3 million towards Redbridge Sport and Leisure Centre's new 12 court sports hall. The centre has also received financial support from the Olympic Delivery Authority, Badminton England and England Netball (via their Whole Sport Plan funding) and the Mayor's Legacy Fund. It will be a regional centre of excellence for badminton and netball and will provide a lasting legacy from the Games.

Sport England has also recently invested £1 million into the new 50 metre swimming pool at Hillingdon.

Youth Sport Trust

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent progress his Department has made in its discussions with the Department for Education on the future work programme of the Youth Sport Trust; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the outcomes of those discussions on the work of the School Sport Partnership in north Stoke. [33087]

Hugh Robertson: The Government are committed to driving up participation in competitive sport. To that end, Sport England has appointed the Youth Sport Trust to lead the development of the new School Games. We are confident that, with their expertise and those of other partners, the School Games will be a success and will build upon the strengths of the school sport system.

In addition, the Department for Education is providing funding up to 2013 to allow PE teachers further to embed competitive sport in schools across the country, including north Stoke, and raise participation.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Forests

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what agreements were made at the Cancun Climate Change Summit on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. [33127]

Gregory Barker: An agreement was reached at Cancun on all the essential elements of reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD+). In the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support to developed country parties, parties collectively aim to slow, halt and reverse forest cover and carbon loss, consistent with the ultimate objective of the UN framework convention on climate change.

Elements of the agreement include that forests nations will develop national strategies, safeguards should be put in place to avoid any potentially detrimental impacts to biodiversity and indigenous people, the scale at which reference levels for forests should be set and at which monitoring should occur, and a commitment from developed countries to help fund activities. The full decision text is available at:

http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_16/application/pdf/cop16_lca.pdf

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the direct carbon dioxide emissions arising from the participation of the UK delegation in the climate change conference in Cancun. [32789]

Gregory Barker: The carbon footprint created by the travel of United Kingdom delegates to the climate change conference in Cancun has been kept to a minimum through limiting the number of delegates who attended. All emissions resulting from their flights will be offset by the relevant Government Department using the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility.

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many occasions his Department has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings his Department was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions his Department has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31918]

Gregory Barker: There have been no such occasions.

Energy Saving Trust : Finance

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding the Energy Saving Trust received from his Department in each of the last three years; what funding for the Trust was planned for 2010-11; what his most recent estimate is of his Department's funding for the Trust in 2010-11; and what funding he expects to allocate to the Trust in each of the next three years. [32994]

Gregory Barker: The Energy Saving Trust (EST) has received the following grant funding from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC):

2008-09—£35.5 million

2009-10—£38.5 million

In 2010-11, EST was given a provisional grant offer of £35.5 million. This was then reduced to £34.4 million as part of the DECC's contribution to cross-Government in-year savings.

The funding that DECC expects to allocate to EST in 2011-12 will be confirmed at the end of the financial year.

The organisation of future advice provision will be dependent on the outcome of the delivery review, as announced in last year's Annual Energy Statement.

Energy: Prices

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to equalise the price of electricity for customers on *(a)* pre-payment meters and *(b)* standard credit tariffs. [33276]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem has put in place rules to protect consumers on pricing, including licence condition changes to prevent unfair price differentials, including those between different payment methods, such as between pre-payment meters and standard credit.

Ofgem has reported on the effectiveness of these changes and found that the differentials for customers paying by pre-payment meter (PPM) have been completely eliminated and are, on average, £19 below the equivalent standard credit tariffs. The full Ofgem report is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/ensuppro/Documents1/Update%20on%20Probe%20Monitoring_FINAL.pdf

We support the action Ofgem took to address unjustified tariff premiums, their action to evaluate the effectiveness of these changes and their action to enforce the changes. We believe it is important to see ongoing monitoring and enforcement by Ofgem, so consumers do not lose out.

In addition, we expect the roll-out of smart meters to provide consumers with a wider range of tariffs.

Fuels: Prices

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with oil companies on trends in the price of *(a)* heating and *(b)* other fuels. [33191]

Charles Hendry: We continue to monitor trends in the price of heating oil and other fuels. The UK has open and competitive markets for heating oil and other petroleum products. The Office of Fair Trading continues to consider all complaints and representations carefully and is monitoring for any indications that consumer or competition legislation has been breached. We have had no specific discussions with oil companies on trends in oil prices.

Green Deal

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the combined effect of the requirement for savings to exceed repayments and varying household expenditure caps on the likely extent of energy savings achievable through the Green Deal; and if he will make a statement. [30653]

Gregory Barker: The Golden Rule, the principle that the charge attached to the energy bill should not exceed the expected savings on an average bill sits at the heart of the Green Deal and is a key consumer protection mechanism. Satisfying the Golden Rule at the outset will protect bill payers and enable the charge to transfer automatically from one bill payer to the next. We have not therefore considered a Green Deal scheme without this protection. There is no limit on the face of the Energy Bill to the amount of finance available to each household. As we develop secondary legislation we will be considering what limit is appropriate alongside other consumer protections. We will publish analysis of the effects of our proposals at this time.

It is important to ensure that as many households as possible are eligible for a Green Deal. The new Energy Company Obligation will interact with the Green Deal and provide support to vulnerable and low income consumers as well as those in expensive to treat homes. In addition, ambitious consumers will have the opportunity to pay any excess costs up front to ensure the charge attached to the energy meter will meet the Golden Rule.

Heating

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what support his Department plans to provide to incentivise the establishment of district heating systems. [33121]

Gregory Barker: In November 2010, we launched Community Energy Online, an online resource that provides information and guidance for communities and local authorities looking to develop low carbon energy projects, including district heating. The website address is:

http://ceo.decc.gov.uk/

The renewable heat incentive (RHI), which comes into force later this year, will help bridge the gap between the cost of conventional and renewable heating. This will incentivise the establishment of all types of renewable heat, including district heating systems fuelled by, for example, biomass or renewable combined heat and power (CHP).

London Energy Meeting

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress he has made on the commitments given at the London Energy Meeting in December 2008. [32964]

Charles Hendry: Participants in the London Energy Meeting did not enter into formal commitments to act but did agree on the importance of key actions aimed at improving the functioning of global energy markets and improving dialogue between energy producing and consuming countries.

Participating countries noted the importance of working closely with the International Energy Forum (IEF) to provide high quality data on oil and gas production, supply and demand to the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI). The IEF reports that the data supplied are of increasingly good quality. At their summit in Seoul in November 2010, G20 leaders strongly supported JODI and asked the IEF to work with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the International Energy Agency to produce a report suggesting specific steps to improve the quality, timeliness and reliability of the JODI database.

Participants also agreed to support the establishment of an expert group to recommend how to strengthen the architecture of the consumer-producer dialogue and the functioning of the IEF. At the IEF Ministerial In March 2010 in Cancun, Ministers from 66 countries endorsed that group's recommendations for analytical work, approving a programme which is now under way under the aegis of the IEF. They also agreed that a new charter for the IEF should be developed to underpin that organisation's work. With Saudi Arabia, the UK has co-chaired the group developing the new Charter. Work is now at a very advanced stage and we hope the new Charter will be agreed over the next few weeks. At the Seoul summit, G20 leaders supported the establishment of the Charter and welcomed the IEF programme of analysis and dialogue.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to increase the uptake of ground source heat pumps. [32985]

Gregory Barker: The Government will be launching the renewable heat incentive in 2011 which will provide a financial incentive for renewable heat. Full details on the scheme will be published shortly.

The coalition Government are also currently consulting on its microgeneration strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to identify and tackle non-financial barriers which have an impact on the development of all microgeneration, including ground source heat pumps. The consultation closes on 16 March 2011.

Further information is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/microgen_strat/microgen_strat.aspx

Solar Power

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to increase the uptake of solar panels; and if he will make a statement. [32401]

Gregory Barker: The coalition Government have recently published a consultation document on the promotion of microgeneration, which includes solar photovoltaic and solar thermal technologies. The consultation document discusses non-financial barriers to the development of the microgeneration sector. Further information on the consultation is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/microgen_strat/microgen strat.aspx

The Government are committed to the full implementation of feed-in tariffs (FiTs) to incentivise uptake of small-scale low-carbon electricity generating technologies, including solar photovoltaic.

The renewable heat incentive (RHI), which will be launched in 2011, will provide financial support to renewable heat technologies at all scales in order to incentivise uptake. The Government will confirm which technologies they will support under the scheme shortly.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Sponsorship

Priti Patel: To ask the Attorney-General what expenditure the Law Officers' Departments incurred on sponsorship in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [27532]

The Attorney-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) has no record of any expenditure incurred on sponsorship by TSol, the Attorney-General's Office or the HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate in the period 2001 to date. Prior to 2001, any figure could not be established without incurring disproportionate cost.

The National Fraud Authority made a one-off payment of £17,625, in 2009-10, to Get Safe Online, a joint initiative to raise awareness of internet security and help individuals and small businesses in the UK to use the internet confidently and safely.

The Serious Fraud Office has in recent years spent the following on sponsorship.

		£
Sponsorship	*2010*	*2009*
Cambridge International Symposium on economic crime	5,957	7,000
Breaking the mould conference—Daily Mail	—	10,000
Total	5,957	17,000

Data prior to this are unavailable in the format requested and would not be accurate due to the way that the accounts were previously reported.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Financial Management System does not specifically capture information on sponsorship, and the information sought could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, it has been established that the CPS incurred the following costs (in the associated years) for the events that are listed as follows:

Event sponsored	*Year*	*Cost (£)*
The Muslim News Awards for Excellence	2007-08	11,750.00
The Muslim News Awards for Excellence	2008-09	11,750.00
The Society of Asian Lawyers Ball	2008-09	1,500.00
The Muslim News Awards for Excellence	2009-10	11,500.00
The Society of Asian Lawyers Ball	2009-10	1,000.00
The People of the Year Awards	2009-10	11,750.00
Total cost of sponsorship	—	49,250.00

Daniel Ubani

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Attorney-General pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 64W, on European Arrest Warrant: Dr Daniel Ubani, what the minor corrections were which the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) requested to the European Arrest Warrant received on 9 March 2009 in respect of Dr Daniel Ubani; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the warrant received by SOCA on *(a)* 9 March and *(b)* 12 March 2009. [29430]

The Attorney-General: The minor alteration to the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) related to the contact details for the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Belarus: Elections

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for the UK's policy on election monitoring of the decision of the Government of Belarus to withdraw facilities from the election monitoring team sent by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe; and if he will make a statement. [33187]

Mr Lidington: On 31 December 2010, I made a statement underlining that the UK strongly regrets Belarus's decision to veto the renewal of the mandate of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission in Belarus and calling for this decision to be revised immediately.

In addition to its role of supporting the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in conducting their election observation mission, the OSCE Mission in Belarus makes other vital contributions. The mission not only encourages democratic reform, but also promotes institution building, consolidating the rule of law, the development of civil society and the freedom of the media. Further valuable work is also conducted in addressing issues of common regional security, such as energy security and border management.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Belarus on the arrest and detention of candidates in the presidential election in that country. [33188]

Mr Lidington: I am deeply concerned about the situation in Belarus. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I issued statements on 20, 22 and 31 December 2010, strongly condemning the violence surrounding the presidential election, urging the Belarusian authorities to release those detained for politically motivated reasons and to ensure that all detainees are given access to proper medical care and legal representation. I called in the Belarusian ambassador on 22 December 2010 to voice my grave concerns in person. We will continue to follow events closely. We are also working closely with other EU member states to urge a tough EU response, including looking at re-imposing targeted sanctions.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the recent presidential election in Belarus. [33189]

Mr Lidington: The UK is at the forefront of efforts within the EU and the wider international community to bring pressure on the Belarusian authorities to release the political prisoners. We have been vocal in advocating a tough EU response, including looking at re-imposing targeted sanctions. I have discussed Belarus with some of my EU counterparts and encouraged EU High

Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the right hon. Baroness Ashton, to issue a strongly worded statement. A joint EU-US statement was released on 23 December 2010.

PRIME MINISTER

Fireworks

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Northampton North of 8 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 304, which body is responsible for the enforcement of legislation on Category One fireworks, including Christmas crackers. [32839]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

This Department has policy responsibility for the EU legislation relating to Category One fireworks, although Trading Standards Departments of local authorities are responsible for enforcement of the regulations.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky

Chris Bryant: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make representations at his next meeting with the President of the Russian Federation on the *(a)* trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev and *(b)* death in custody of Sergei Magnitsky. [31088]

Mr Lidington: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), made a statement on 30 December 2010 expressing deep concern over recent developments in Mr Khodorkovsky and Mr Lebedev's case and the serious implications this has for confidence in how the rule of law is applied in Russia. The Government have consistently stressed to the Russian authorities the importance of fair and impartial trials. It will continue to raise issues surrounding these cases, and others including through the EU and during our bilateral human rights consultations this month with Russia.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register: Fraud

Mr Offord: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he plans to take to reduce fraudulent entries on the electoral register. [32746]

Mr Harper: Responsibility for maintaining electoral registers lies with electoral registration officers (EROs) who are appointed by local authorities, but independent of them. Legislation requires EROs to determine applications for registration that they receive. It also requires EROs to remove entries from the register if the ERO determines that a person with an entry is not entitled to be registered, and provides for objection and review processes to enable EROs to make such determinations. It is an offence under Section 13D of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to provide false information for any purposes connected with registration and if a person does so it is within the discretion of the ERO, depending upon the relevant circumstances of the case, to pursue the matter further and refer the case to the police.

Ensuring the integrity of the electoral register is a key part of rebuilding trust in the political system. The Government are therefore committed to tackling electoral fraud and have announced that they will legislate to bring forward the implementation of individual electoral registration to 2014. This will require those applying to be registered to provide evidence of their identity, and so provide greater protection against fraudulent entries on the register.

Government Departments: Internet

Mr Offord: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the role to be played by *(a)* the Directgov website and *(b)* other Government websites in informing the public about (i) individual voter registration and (ii) other constitutional and political changes. [32748]

Mr Harper: We always consider how best to inform the public about changes that affect them. While the details of public information campaigns relating to political and constitutional reforms, including individual electoral registration, are still being developed, it is likely that there will be an online element and we will consider how Directgov and other Government websites might support this.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Southern Sudan

13. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has allocated in development assistance to southern Sudan in the last year for which figures are available. [32726]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I am considering what our support to Sudan should be in future through the Bilateral Aid Review which is currently under way. The UK is providing £140 million to Sudan in development and humanitarian aid during the current financial year, approximately half of which goes to the south.

In southern Sudan UK aid has, for example, increased access to basic services providing 1.3 million people with access to primary health care and 300,000 people with access to water and sanitation. It has provided communications systems for 30,000 southern Sudanese police to manage security during and after the referendum period. It has also provided 4.5 million packages of food aid.

Arms Trade Treaty

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking in preparation for the second Preparatory Committee on the Arms Trade Treaty in February 2011; and which officials of which grades from his Department will attend the Preparatory Committee. [32557]

Mr Duncan: The UK Government fully support efforts to establish an Arms Trade Treaty that will help prevent irresponsible trade in conventional weapons. The Department for International Development (DFID) will continue to contribute to the Government's strategy, working with civil society, the defence industry and other Departments across Whitehall to prepare for the upcoming Preparatory Committee in February 2011. The UK's delegation will be led by John Duncan, Ambassador for Multilateral Arms Control and Disarmament. The size and makeup of the rest of the delegation will be finalised during January 2011.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the use of microinsurance as a mechanism to assist adaptation to climate change in the world's poorest countries. [32560]

Mr O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1137W, on Developing Countries: Insurance.

Developing Countries: Remittances

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the monetary value of remittances sent by UK residents to developing countries in the latest period for which figures are available. [32724]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) relies on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for data on UK transfers. The ONS does not publish separate estimates for remittances because they are not considered to be of sufficient quality. Instead, estimates for remittances are combined with estimates for net transfers to UK charities. Together, these estimates are defined in the UK Balance of Payments (the Pink Book) as 'other payments by households'.

In 2009, 'other payments by households' totalled £5.3 billion, the majority of which were remittances. However, this covers remittances to all countries, not just developing countries, with data quality issues preventing a more accurate country disaggregation. In recent years, the ONS has investigated a number of new sources to improve the quality of remittances statistics and will continue to do so going forward.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 15 November 2010 concerning Mr W Howe. [32492]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The response to the letter from the right hon. Member has been issued.

Nigeria: Education

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will provide support for steps to reinstate the education sector Community Accountability and Transparency Initiative in Nigeria. [R] [33224]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is willing to consider supporting any reinstatement of the Community Accountability and Transparency Initiative (CATI) in Nigeria. This would be dependent on a request and support from the Nigerian Government. The principles of accountability and transparency are fully supported by DFID, and we are working with Nigerian officials to promote these principles. DFID is supporting community based management committees to improve transparent use of resources at school level, as part of an effort to strengthen management of the education sector as a whole.

Overseas Aid: Local Government

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Local Government Association on the recommendation from the Select Committee on International Development in its Report on Aid Under Pressure, HC 179-I, Session 2008-09, that his Department should make greater use of the expertise that exists within local government in the UK. [32760]

Mr Duncan: The Secretary of State for International Development met Baroness Eaton, Chair of the Local Government Association, on 16 November 2010. During the meeting, the contribution of expertise that exists within local government in the United Kingdom to international development was discussed. The Secretary of State encouraged the Local Government Association to write directly to the Department to outline their offer in the field of international development.

Experts from local government already make a significant contribution to development, including having members in the new Stabilisation Cadre. The Department for International Development is supporting the Commonwealth Local Government Forum's Good Practice scheme which also capitalises on existing expertise in local government.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department allocated to Sri Lanka in each of the last five years. [32545]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) allocated the following amounts to Sri Lanka over the last five financial years.

	£ million
2005-06	10.774
2006-07	5.904
2007-08	1.813
2008-09	2.978
2009-10	13.061

Details of UK aid expenditure are published annually in Statistics on International Development, which is available in the Library of the House and on DFID's website.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department allocated to Yemen in each of the last five years. [32544]

Mr Duncan: The amount of bilateral assistance provided to Yemen by the Department of International Development (DFID) is reported in "Statistics on International Development", which is available in the Library of the House and on DFID's website.

DFID has allocated £50 million of programme funding for this financial year 2010-11. Bilateral assistance in each of the four previous years was as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	21.5
2007-08	12.0
2008-09	19.2
2009-10	29.8

WORK AND PENSIONS

Housing Associations: Edinburgh

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of one-bedroom *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association properties with a rental in the bottom 30 per cent. of local market values in Edinburgh in the first six months of 2010; and how many such properties were in (i) sheltered housing and (ii) multi-story blocks; [31396]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of vacant housing association tenanted homes with *(a)* one bedroom and *(b)* two bedrooms in Edinburgh East constituency; [31397]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of tenants of each type of tenure under-occupying a property in Edinburgh East constituency; and how many are on *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* local housing allowance. [31399]

Steve Webb: This information is not available.

Housing Benefit

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of recipients of local housing allowance between the ages of 25 and 35 who are in employment. [32598]

Steve Webb: At September 2010 our records show that 124,120 recipients of housing benefit assessed under the local housing arrangements were aged between 25 and 35-years-old and in employment.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on the single housing benefit extract (SHBE), are rounded to the nearest 10 recipients, and are as at the second Thursday of September 2010.

2. Figures refer to benefit units which may be a single person or a couple.

3. The age breakdown is based on the age of the main benefit claimant.

4. Local housing allowance tenants (LHA) may include a small number of non-LHA cases making a new claim since 7 April 2008. This will include recipients in caravan accommodation.

5. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and August 2010 is the most recent available.

Housing Benefit: Blaenau Gwent

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many households in Blaenau Gwent constituency claiming housing benefit have at least one member in receipt of jobseeker's allowance; [33058]

(2) how many households in Blaenau Gwent claim housing benefit; and in how many such households the claimant of housing benefit is in employment; [33060]

(3) how many single people under 35 years of age in Blaenau Gwent constituency who claim housing benefit *(a)* are in work and *(b)* claim jobseeker's allowance. [33062]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Housing Benefit: Greater London

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households received housing benefit payments in *(a)* Richmond upon Thames and *(b)* Kingston upon Thames local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [32973]

Steve Webb: The number of people in receipt of housing benefit in Richmond-upon-Thames and Kingston-upon-Thames in September 2010 is shown in the following table.

Local authority	*Total HB recipients*
Richmond-upon-Thames	9,420
Kingston-upon-Thames	8,770

Notes:

1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

3. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and September 2010 is the latest.

4. At present geographic breakdowns are only available for local authorities and regions. However, an exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the data: this will include parliamentary constituencies.

5. Data is published on the Department's website at:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hbctb_release_dec10.xls

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE)

Housing Benefit: Lanarkshire

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* local housing allowance recipients in (i) South Lanarkshire and (ii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in (A) the private sector and (B) other housing were also in receipt of (1) jobseeker's allowance and (2) employment and support allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [29529]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Information is only collected on the number of claimants on housing benefit in receipt of a passporting benefit, which includes income-based jobseeker's allowance and income-related employment and support allowance, but not the total number of housing benefit claimants on jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance.

Housing Benefit: South Lanarkshire

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of local housing allowance who have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months are resident in *(a)* South Lanarkshire and *(b)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency. [29370]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Neither the total number of jobseeker's allowance claimants receiving housing benefit nor the duration of such claims is available. The relevant analysis has not been quality assured to National Statistics standard, and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Incapacity Benefit: Richmond Park

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many adults of working age in Richmond Park constituency claimed incapacity benefit in the latest period for which figures are available. [33061]

Steve Webb: The information requested is given in the following table.

Number of claimants of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance of working age in Richmond Park constituency—May 2010

	Number
Richmond Park constituency	1,770

Notes:
1. Data is rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures do not include employment support allowance (ESA) which was introduced in October 2008 for new claimants.
3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
4. Working age restricts the analysis to males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.
5. Data is published at:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of appeals made by benefit claimants to the First-tier Tribunal were attended by an official of the Ministry of Justice in each year since 2005; and what proportion of appeals at which that Department *(a)* was and *(b)* was not represented were allowed in each year; [33026]

(2) what proportion of appeals made by jobseeker's allowance claimants to the First-tier Tribunal were attended by an official of the Ministry of Justice in each year since 2005; and what proportion of appeals at which that Department *(a)* was and *(b)* was not represented were allowed in each year; [33027]

(3) what proportion of appeals made by incapacity benefit claimants to the First-tier Tribunal were attended by an official of the Ministry of Justice in each year since 2005; and what proportion of appeals at which that Department *(a)* was and *(b)* was not represented were allowed in each year; [33028]

(4) what proportion of appeals made by employment support allowance claimants to the First-tier Tribunal were attended by an official of the Ministry of Justice in each year since 2005; and what proportion of appeals at which that Department *(a)* was and *(b)* was not represented were allowed in each year. [33029]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not available.

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of appeals made by child support claimants to the First-tier Tribunal were attended by an official of the Ministry of Justice in each year since 2005; and what proportion of appeals at which that Department *(a)* was and *(b)* was not represented were allowed in each year. [33030]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

State Earnings Related Pension Scheme

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans he has to enable individuals to make representations on his proposals for the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme when the Green Paper is published; [32948]

(2) whether any proposed changes to the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme will affect those who are presently at pensionable age; [32949]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of proposed changes to the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme on pensions paid to widows and widowers. [32950]

Steve Webb: The Government are currently considering a number of options for simplifying the state pension system but final decisions have not yet been made.

Any proposals will be subject to consultation.

Work Capability Assessment

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider the merits of extending the time between employment and support allowance capability to work assessments for people with progressive, degenerative or continually severe illnesses. [32608]

Maria Miller: As part of the work capability assessment, a healthcare professional will give advice on when they think a customer's condition may have changed sufficiently that a return to work may be possible. They must also give a justification for this advice. The Department uses this advice to decide when to reassess claimants.

A claimant for whom a return to work is considered unlikely within two years will be reassessed after two years. This is because, even for claimants who are unlikely to see an improvement in their health and who are unlikely to sufficiently adapt to their condition, it is important that each individuals circumstances are considered separately. However, this reassessment will not necessarily involve a face-to-face assessment—where possible, the Department may make a decision using paper-based evidence.

We currently have no plans to change this process.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer question 20879, tabled by the hon. Member for Bethnal Green and Bow on 26 October 2010. [30213]

Steve Webb: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 15 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 838W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Asset Transfer Unit

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to provide information to the public on the Asset Transfer Unit; and if he will make a statement. [32169]

Andrew Stunell: Information is available on the activities carried out by the Asset Transfer Unit on their website at:

www.atu.org.uk

This includes access to information and case studies on community asset transfer and the programmes they run on behalf of Government. Guidance and toolkits they have developed to support community asset transfer are also available such as a legal toolkit to assist community groups and local authorities; guidance on community-led open spaces exploring transfer of parks and green spaces; transferring heritage assets; and making buildings work for your community through design and refurbishment. The Unit's Information, Advice and Referral service has received over 650 inquiries since the unit opened in January 2009. SQW consultants are carrying out an independent evaluation of the Asset Transfer Unit and their interim report is available on the unit's website. They have also carried out a baseline survey of local authorities' attitudes to asset transfer. The Year 1 report was published in November 2009 and the Year 2 report is being published in March.

Homelessness

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the number of households likely to present as homeless in *(a)* Gateshead local authority area, *(b)* Tyne and Wear and *(c)* England in 2011. [33201]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not produced estimates of the number of households likely to present as homeless in Gateshead local authority area, Tyne and Wear and England in 2011. Statutory homelessness statistics are published quarterly and can be found on the Department's website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/

This Government are committed to tackling and preventing homelessness. We have protected homelessness grant funding, with £400 million over the spending review period. This will be made available to local authorities and the voluntary sector to support their work to tackle homelessness. We have made an additional £190 million available for discretionary housing payments and other forms of practical support alongside the Government's package of welfare reform measures.

Allocations of Preventing Homelessness Grant for local authorities were published on 13 December as part of the provisional local government settlement for 2010-11. This can be found on the Department's website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/specgrant1112/index.htm

I also refer the hon. Member to my letter on the spending review's settlement for housing of 20 October 2010, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, on our plans to build more affordable homes and renovate poor quality social housing.

Homelessness: Greater London

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the number of people who are homeless in the *(a)* Richmond-upon-Thames and *(b)* Kingston Upon Thames local authority area. [32970]

Grant Shapps: Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly PIE returns. Summary information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to ensure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available and this information is also collected.

The number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty during the July to September quarter 2010 and the number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of September in each local authority is given in the table at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1791630.xls

Information is also collected on rough sleeping. Since 1998, only councils in areas with a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem were required to conduct an official rough sleeper count—which meant that only 70 councils submitted information to central Government. Figures published in July 2010 showed that under this previous method, on any given night there were 440 rough sleepers in England. However, the coalition Government wanted a more complete measure of rough sleeping and when the remaining 256 councils provided estimates of the scale of the problem in their areas, this added a further estimated 807 rough sleepers—taking the national total to 1,247 rough sleepers on any given night.

Rough sleeping figures are published by the Department on the DCLG website and are given by local authority in the table at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1648099.xls

Under new guidance all councils across England will now provide information on rough sleeping. This move follows consultation with homelessness charities and councils and is aimed at getting a clearer picture of the scale of the problem in each area so more targeted support can be provided to some of the most vulnerable in society.

Housing Benefit

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if his Department will take steps to ensure that people in receipt of housing benefit have better access to private rented accommodation in areas where there is insufficient social housing available; and if he will make a statement. [32753]

Andrew Stunell: From 1 April 2011, private tenants who are in receipt of housing benefit will receive funding equivalent to the thirtieth percentile of local market rents for a suitable privately rented property in their area. This means that they will have access to approximately one-third of the privately rented housing in their area—a reasonable proportion of the available housing. We have also announced that we will allow direct payment of benefit to landlords where a landlord has reduced the rent on their property to reflect the lower local housing allowance in an area. We anticipate that this will provide a real incentive to landlords to make their property available to housing benefit recipients.

The Government are making £190 million of additional funding available to help local authorities to provide support where it is needed, for example to help people to stay in their home or to move to cheaper accommodation We are also working with Crisis to put in place additional support for single homeless people. This initiative will support the voluntary sector to work with local authorities to expand access to private rented housing for single homeless people.

Housing: Construction

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes he expects to be built under the New Homes Bonus scheme in Gateshead local authority area in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [33199]

Grant Shapps: The New Homes Bonus will match fund the additional council tax raised for new homes and properties brought back into use, for the following six years with an enhancement for affordable homes.

The Government have consulted on the scheme design and the final details and individual local authority allocations will be published in due course.

A calculator has been published which enables local authorities to estimate their grant. The calculator can be found at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus

The consultation stage impact assessment published alongside the New Homes Bonus consultation provides an estimate of the potential supply impact but this depends on the final scheme design and the behavioural response of local authorities. Our analysis suggests that we could see a national increase of 8-13% in homes built, over the expected baseline, from 2016-17 onwards.

Private Rented Housing: Standards

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the standard of accommodation in the private rented sector; and if he will make a statement. [33198]

Andrew Stunell: The English Housing Survey makes an annual assessment of the standard of accommodation for the private rented sector and for the stock as a whole. The following table provides the latest available estimate based on the Decent Homes standard. Conditions in the housing sectors are dependent on a range of factors but particularly the age profile of their housing stock. Some 40% of the private rented stock was built before 1919 compared to 21% of owner occupied stock and only 7% of social housing.

Number and percentage of dwellings non-decent by tenure, 2008

	Number (thousand)		*Percentage of tenure*	
	Decent	*Non-decent*	*Decent*	*Non-decent*
Owner occupied	10,166	4,842	67.7	32.3
Private rented	1,847	1,449	56.0	44.0
All private	12,013	6,291	65.6	34.4
Local authority	1,359	625	68.5	31.5
Housing association	1,507	444	77.2	22.8
All social	2,866	1,069	72.8	27.2
All tenures	14,879	7,360	66.9	33.1

Notes:

1. To be considered decent a dwelling must meet the minimum standard (be free of any serious health and safety risks for vulnerable people), be in a satisfactory state of repair, have modern facilities and services and provide a satisfactory level of thermal comfort. The detailed criteria are provided in the Decent Homes Guidance on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/decenthome

2. The figures for this table were published in the English Housing Survey Headline Report 2008-09, Table 13, p33, on the Department website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/ehs200809headlinereport

Source:

English Housing Survey, 2008 dwelling sample

Right to Acquire Scheme

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 481W, on the Right to Acquire Scheme, whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to make sharia financing possible under the Right to Acquire Scheme. [33078]

Andrew Stunell: The Government have no current plans for legislation to allow sharia finance to be used for Right to Acquire purchases for the reasons set out in my answer of 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 481W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Violent and Sex Offenders Register

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were on the violent and sex offenders register on the latest date for which figures are available. [33106]

Lynne Featherstone: There are currently around 57,000 live records on the ViSOR database, which captures information on a range of offender types who are considered to pose a risk of harm to the public, including registered sex offenders (RSOs). The Ministry of Justice publishes annual statistics on multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) eligible offenders. The 2009-10 annual report, published on 27 October 2010, recorded that there were 34,939 registered sexual offenders in the community as at 31 March 2010.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted of a sexual offence and released from custody failed to register on the violent and sex offenders register in the latest period for which figures are available. [33107]

Lynne Featherstone: The data are not collected in the format requested and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Sex offenders are required to notify their personal details with the police. This system is often referred to as the sex offenders register and requires offenders to provide their local police station with a record of their name, address, date of birth and national insurance number. Sex offenders have to notify these details to the police annually and whenever these details change.

If an offender breaches his notification requirements he commits a criminal offence and could be subject to a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Game Birds: Animal Welfare

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will include a ban on the use of enriched cages in her Department's Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes. [33037]

Mr Paice: In the absence of any scientific evidence that enriched cages compromise the welfare of gamebirds there are no current plans to include a ban on the use of enriched cages in DEFRA's Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes.

Water Voles

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to protect water voles from predation by the mink population. [33091]

Richard Benyon: Both Natural England and the Environment Agency have been actively supporting projects which serve to maintain and enhance the populations of water voles, which are a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; management of mink is a key action in this regard.

As the American mink is now a widely established invasive non-native species, complete eradication is unlikely and targeted management at appropriately considered scales is the only viable approach. Currently mink trapping takes place in some river catchments, supported by combinations of the Environment Agency (the lead partner for water vole conservation in England and Wales), Natural England, the local Wildlife Trusts and other conservation organisations. These aim for local suppression of mink numbers, to assist water vole populations, rather than eradication.

DEFENCE

Addison Lee

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public bodies for which his Department is responsible contract services from Addison Lee private hire taxi company. [30847]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) and its agencies hold no contracts with the Addison Lee private hire taxi company. We do, however, have an account with the company which is used to meet urgent travel requirements in London when no other suitable form of transport is available. Use of this account is under strict line management control, and the total spend during the last financial year of 2009-10 was under £300.

Staff may only use a taxi for official duty when there is a business benefit to the MOD or when it saves money. We are constraining the amount of travel undertaken in the present economic conditions.

SCOTLAND

Fuels: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on ensuring continuity of fuel deliveries during severe weather. [32406]

David Mundell: There have been regular and extensive discussions between Ministers in both the UK Government and the devolved Administration in Scotland about managing the impact of the severe weather including on the continuity of fuel deliveries. Officials in UK Government Departments, including the Scotland Office, are in regular communication with their counterparts in the Scottish Government.

UK Reform of Consumer and Enforcement Bodies

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has formal representation on the working group established by the Scottish Executive in December 2010 on UK reform of consumer and enforcement bodies. [33225]

Michael Moore: The UK reform of consumer and enforcement bodies is a matter for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Scotland Office maintains regular dialogue with officials there. My Department has not been invited to be represented on the Scottish Government working group.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Discrimination

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment the Regulatory Policy Committee made of the impact assessment on the implementation of the dual discrimination provisions of the Equality Act 2010. [32538]

Lynne Featherstone: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 939W.

HEALTH

Health Visitors: Training

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to make provision for training of Sure Start health visitors. [32764]

Anne Milton: The Department will be publishing shortly "Health Visiting Implementation plan—A Call to Action", which sets out the Government's commitment to a larger, re-energised, health visiting service. This will deliver a new model of support to families, building on the Healthy Child Programme, and provides further clarification as to how this increase will be achieved including action on training, and what the expectations of strategic health authorities and service providers will be.

The plan supports the "Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011/12", which identified health visiting provision as a key service priority for the national health service over the next year.

Hospital Beds

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* intensive care and *(b)* high dependency beds there were in the NHS in England in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what the average daily cost of each such type of bed was in that year. [33041]

Mr Simon Burns: On the day of the census on 15 July 2010 there were 3,662 critical care beds. Of these beds 1,989 beds were being used for intensive care (level 3) and 1,673 were being used for high dependency care (level 2).

This information is published and available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/Beds/DH_077451

The Department does not collect the average daily cost of intensive care and high dependency beds. However, national health service organisations in England reported an average cost of £1,149 per bed day for providing critical care for adults in 2008-09 reference costs.

The source of this data is the 2008-09 national schedule of reference costs, NHS trusts and primary care trusts combined, which is published and available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_111591

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many outpatient appointments requiring a temporary non-overnight use of a hospital bed were cancelled in December 2010 for reasons attributable to recent changes to policy on reporting procedures for mixed-sex wards. [33185]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally. The reporting requirements relating to breaches of national guidance on same-sex accommodation are unlikely to have any impact on out-patient appointments.

Our policy on providing single-sex accommodation (except when it is in the patient's overall best interest) has not changed. Organisations providing national health service funded care are expected to provide single-sex sleeping accommodation, along with single-sex bathroom and toilet accommodation. Patients should not have to pass through opposite-sex areas to reach their own facilities.

Only patients who are admitted to hospital are included in the reporting policy. This includes patients undergoing day surgery and procedures such as endoscopy; however, it does not apply to the majority of out-patient appointments. None the less, high standards of privacy and dignity must be maintained, even when patients are not admitted.

Hospitals: Admissions

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were admitted to hospital as a result of injuries sustained in fires that were electrical in origin in each of the last five years; and for what injuries such people were treated. [32537]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold information centrally on the number of people admitted to hospital resulting from injuries sustained by fire that were electrical in origin, or on what injuries they were treated for.

Influenza

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the preparedness of the NHS for influenza from *(a)* Asthma UK, *(b)* the

British Medical Association, *(c)* the Royal College of General Practitioners, *(d)* the Royal College of Nurses, *(e)* the Royal College of Midwives, *(f)* the Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians, *(g)* UNISON, *(h)* Diabetes UK and *(i)* the British Heart Foundation. [33190]

Anne Milton: The Department has been working closely with many organisations both in the run up to, and during the influenza season.

The Department received a letter from the British Medical Association in December. The Department took this opportunity to ask the organisation to remind its members to continue calling all at risk patients for their vaccines.

Seasonal influenza vaccination was discussed at the 9 December 2010 Social Partnership Forum, of which the Royal College of Nurses, UNISON, Royal College of Midwives and British Medical Association are partners along with other organisations. The British Medical Association, Royal College of Midwives, Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians, Royal College of Nurses and UNISON have all agreed to promote seasonal influenza vaccination to help increase vaccine uptake rates.

Kidney Patients: Hospital Wards

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on kidney dialysis patients of imposing financial penalties on dialysis units which provide mixed sex accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [32742]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service organisations are expected to eliminate mixed sex accommodation, except where it is in the overall best interests of the patient, or reflects their personal choice. The Operating Framework for the NHS 2011-12[1] confirms requirements for reporting and sanctioning breaches of national guidance.

Organisations providing NHS-funded care must agree with their commissioners how they will determine whether a particular episode of mixing is justified. One of limited number of circumstances in which mixing can be justified, relates to patients who actively choose to share with others of the same age or clinical condition, rather than gender.

The Department has issued guidance, including PL/CNO/2010/3[2], to help service providers and commissioners in making decisions, and these resources also support appropriate use of sanctions. One element of this guidance specifically refers to 'patients with long-term conditions, including renal dialysis'. Here, guidance states that it can be acceptable for mixing to occur—the crucial factors being that it reflects the decision of the whole group and does not adversely affect the care of others.

In the context of the guidance referred to above, it will be for local commissioners to decide about the imposition of sanctions on dialysis units. It is not expected that renal dialysis will prompt a significant number of sanctions, though the Department will be able to monitor the situation in the new year, when the first set of data about breaches of the guidance is published.

Policy relating to mixed sex accommodation in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly. The arrangements and sanctions set out above relate to England only.

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[1] Published: 15 December 2010.

[2] A copy has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_121860.pdf

Smoking

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence he has received on the effects of plain packaging of cigarettes on levels of smoking. [32791]

Anne Milton: A large number of documents, reports and studies are relevant to the role and effect of packaging in the marketing and promotion of tobacco products.

For example, the RAND Europe study "Assessing the Impacts of Revising the Tobacco Products Directive" commissioned by the European Commission Health and Consumer Directorate-General to support their assessment of the impacts of revising the Tobacco Products Directive 2001/37/EC and published in September 2010, includes a section examining the evidence on the plain or generic packaging of tobacco products.

The RAND report has been placed in the Library and can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/docs/tobacco_ia_rand_en.pdf

Also, the Australian Government have announced their intention to introduce a legislative requirement for the plain packaging of tobacco to commence on 1 January 2012. The evidence supporting their action is summarised in the technical report "Australia: the healthiest country by 2020—Technical report 2 Tobacco Control in Australia".

The Australian technical report has been placed in the Library and can be found at:

www.preventativehealth.org.au/internet/preventativehealth/publishing.nsf/Content/tech-tobacco

Swine Flu: Medical Treatments

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many extracorporeal membrane oxygenation treatment machines are available in each region. [33039]

Mr Simon Burns: There are currently 25 beds for adult respiratory extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) beds available nationally for patients with potentially reversible severe respiratory failure. There are six beds available for paediatric respiratory ECMO. The number of beds for adult respiratory ECMO has increased from five in early December to 25 beds currently.

Hospitals providing adult respiratory ECMO are Glenfield hospital in Leicester (five), Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (four), the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust (four), University Hospitals of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust (four), Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (four), Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (three) Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (two).

There are a further six beds available for paediatric respiratory ECMO at Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (Yorkhill) in Glasgow.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average daily cost to the NHS of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation treatment of a patient was in the latest period for which figures are available. [33040]

Mr Simon Burns: Trusts are reimbursed for extracorporeal membrane oxygenation care on a bed day basis at circa £4,000 per bed per day. This takes into account the intensive staffing and equipment costs. The costs of air and road transport are reimbursed separately.

Tuberculosis: Finance

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his proposals for health premiums on the allocation of funding to tuberculosis prevention measures. [32393]

Anne Milton: The Department is currently consulting on its proposals for the health premium, including which outcomes should be used in "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health" published 21 December 2010, and "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Transparency in Outcomes, Proposals for a Public Health Outcomes Framework" published 20 December 2010. Both consultations close on 31 March 2011. Then, the Government will publish their response.

The health premium received by local authorities will depend on progress they make on elements of the Public Health Outcomes Framework. We will only set out a detailed model when we have established the baseline and potential scale of the premium clearly, and have agreement about the outcomes we will use. However, treatment of tuberculosis (TB) is proposed to be national health service funded and commissioned.

Timely detection and successful completion of treatment are key to preventing the spread of TB. TB treatment completion rate is a proposed outcome in the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

EDUCATION

CAFCASS: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the salary is of the *(a)* chief executive and *(b)* other senior executives of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service. [30715]

Tim Loughton: The salary of the chief executive of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service is currently £160,000 per annum. The salaries of other senior executives of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service are set out as follows.

	£
Operational director	110,000
Director of finance	110,000
Director of human resources and organisational development	110,000
Director of business transformation and technology (and CIO)	110,000
Director of legal services	110,000
Operational director	110,000
Director of policy	110,000
Operational director	110,000

CAFCASS: Standards

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will take steps to ensure that the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service prepares contingency plans to enable it to respond when changed circumstances affect its business; [32904]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that the senior management team of the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service develop and implement an action plan *(a)* to address (i) existing and (ii) emerging skill gaps and *(b)* raise levels of performance and staff morale; [32905]

(3) what recent steps he has taken to ensure that the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service is fit for purpose; [32906]

(4) if he will take steps to ensure that the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service establishes plans to manage reductions in duty allocation of care cases with clear milestones for each area. [32907]

Tim Loughton: These issues formed part of the recommendations in the Public Accounts Committee's sixth report on "Cafcass's response to increased demand for its services", published on 11 November 2010. The Government will respond to these recommendations in a Treasury minute in the new year.

Children in Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish regulations and guidance under section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 on care breaks. [21730]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 4 November 2010]*: The regulations under section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008, which relate to the provision of short breaks for carers of disabled children, have now been published. The regulations are affirmative, and are due to be debated by the House this month (January). The guidance which relates to the regulations will be published once the House has agreed that the regulations can come into force.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children aged *(a)* under one, *(b)* between one and four, *(c)* between five and nine, *(d)* between 10 and 16 and *(e)* over 16 years in care as a result of a court order which did not carry a criminal sanction have left such care (i) overall and (ii) through adoption in 2010. [26868]

Tim Loughton: Information on the number of children who ceased to be looked after, through adoption and overall, who were subject to a court order which did not carry a criminal sanction can be found in the following table, broken down by the age groups requested.

Number of children subject to a court order who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2010[1,2]—year ending 31 March 2010, coverage: England

Numbers

Age on ceasing	*Children who ceased through adoption*	*All children who ceased to be looked after*
Under one	30	420
One to four	2,100	3,700
Five to nine	770	1,800
10 to 16	100	1,000
Over 16	[3]—	3,100

[1] The figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[2] Figures include only those children subject to a care order, freeing order, placement order, emergency protection order and child assessment order on ceasing to be looked after.

[3] Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality.

Source:

SSDA 903

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children left care, where care is defined as subject to a care order, police protection order, emergency protection order, or placement for adoption, and were adopted in each year from 1995 to 2010. [28905]

Tim Loughton: The percentage of children, subject to a care order, police protection order or emergency protection order or placed for adoption, who left care through adoption in each year ending 31 March 1995 to 2010 is shown in tne following table.

Percentage of children subject to a care order, police protection order, emergency protection order or who were placed for adoption who were adopted[1,2,3,4]—years ending 31 March 1995 to 2010, coverage: England

	Percentage of children adopted
1995[5]	22
1996[5]	23
1997[5]	23
1998[6]	26
1999[6]	24
2000[6]	31
2001[6]	34
2002[6]	36
2003[6]	37
2004[5]	34
2005[5]	35
2006[5]	33
2007[5]	31
2008[5]	29
2009[5]	30
2010[5]	29

[1] Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[4] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[5] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which covered all children looked after.

[6] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey.

Source:

SSDA903

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many local authority adoptions from care there were in England equivalent to *(a)* BV163 and *(b)* PAF C23 in each year from 1995 to 2010. [28906]

Tim Loughton: The definitions of PAF C23 and BV163 changed slightly during their use but most recently in 2005-06 were defined as the number of looked after children who were adopted or who ceased to be looked after due to the granting of a special guardianship order during the year ending 31 March, excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Information on the number of looked after children who were adopted or who ceased to be looked after due to the granting of a special guardianship order in each year from 1995 to 2010 can be found in the following table.

Local authority adoptions from care equivalent to PAF C23[1,2,3,4,5] years ending 31 March 1995 to 2010—Coverage: England

	Numbers
1995[6,7,8]	2,000
1996[6,7,8]	1,900
1997[6,7,8]	1,800
1998[6,7,9]	2,200
1999[6,7,9]	2,100
2000[6,7,9]	2,700
2001[6,7,8]	3,100
2002[6,7,8]	3,400
2003[7,8]	3,500
2004[7,8]	3,800
2005[7,8]	3,800
2006[8]	3,800
2007[8]	4,100
2008[8]	4,300
2009[8]	4,600
2010[8]	4,400

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] These figures represent the numerator for PAF C23 which is defined as the number of children who cease to be looked after as a result of the granting of an adoption order or a special guardianship order, excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[4] Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

[5] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[6] Information on unaccompanied asylum seeking children was not collected until 2003.

[7] Special guardianship orders came into force on 30 December 2005 and so are not included until 2006.

[8] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which covered all children looked after.

[9] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey.

Source:

SSDA 903

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what proportion of children under the age of five left care, where care is defined as subject to a care order, police protection order, emergency protection order, or placement for adoption, and returned to their parents in each year from 1995 to 2010; [28909]

(2) how many children aged *(a)* one to four, *(b)* five to nine, *(c)* 10 to 15 and *(d)* 15 or more years old left care, where care is defined as subject to a care order, police protection order, emergency protection order, or placement for adoption, and returned to their parents in (i) 1997, (ii) 2010 and (iii) 1995. [28910]

Tim Loughton: The proportion of children under the age of five who were subject to a care order, police protection order or emergency protection order or placed for adoption, who returned to their parents, in England in years ending 31 March 2001 to 2010 is shown in table 1 as follows.

The number of children who were subject to a care order, police protection order or emergency protection order or placed for adoption, who returned to their parents, in England during the year ending 31 March 2010 by age is shown in table 2 as follows.

Information is not available for years 1995 to 2000, as "returned to parents" was not collected as a reason for ceasing to be looked after, until 2001.

Table 1: Children aged under 5 years who were subject to a care order, police protection order, emergency protection order, or placement for adoption who ceased to be looked after and returned to their parents[1,2,3,4] Years ending 31 March 2001 to 2010—Coverage: England

	Percentage of children aged under 5 years who returned to their parents
2001[5]	23
2002[5]	27
2003[5]	24
2004[6]	30
2005[6]	27
2006[6]	24
2007[5]	23
2008[5]	22
2009[6]	21
2010[5]	20

[1] Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[4] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[5] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey.

[6] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which covered all children looked after.

Source:

SSDA 903.

Table 2: Children who were subject to a care order, police protection order, emergency protection order, or placement for adoption who ceased to be looked after and returned to their parents, by age on ceasing[1,2,3] Year ending 31 March 2010—Coverage: England

Age on ceasing (years)	*Number*
All children	2,200
Under 1	220
1 to 4	720
5 to 9	500
10 to 15	560
16 and over	180

Table 2: Children who were subject to a care order, police protection order, emergency protection order, or placement for adoption who ceased to be looked after and returned to their parents, by age on ceasing[1,2,3] Year ending 31 March 2010—Coverage: England

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1000, and to the nearest 10, otherwise.

[2] Only the last occasion on which a chid ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

Source:

SSDA 903

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities in each year since its inception. [23767]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not hold a central record of spending on activities to influence public policy by its agencies and non-departmental public bodies and cannot obtain the information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which of his Department's non-departmental public bodies have undertaken activities to influence public policy for which they engaged *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultants in each year since its inception; and at what monetary cost in each such year. [23788]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not hold a central record of spending on activities to influence public policy by its agencies and non-departmental public bodies and cannot obtain the information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the effect of the increase in the standard rate of value added tax on his Department's annual expenditure. [31189]

Tim Loughton: In line with other Government Departments, the Department for Education is able to recover substantial amounts of VAT, reclaimed under section 41(3) of the VAT Act 1994 (commonly known as the contracting-out directive). An additional 2.5% on the average amount reclaimed in the last six months could add approximately £16,500 monthly, if reclaim patterns remain the same.

In addition, there are certain other purchases of goods and services sitting outside the contracting-out directive. For these goods and services neither the Department, nor our arm's length bodies, can recover VAT, and will therefore need to carry the additional 2.5% cost of the VAT increase. The exact amount of

VAT paid on each contract held by the Department and our ALBs is not monitored centrally and could be determined only at disproportionate cost. In line with Government priorities, we would expect these increased costs to be covered by efficiency savings.

As announced on 22 November 2010, legislation will be introduced to allow academies to recover VAT on a similar basis to local authority maintained schools. More details of this proposed scheme are available via the consultation pages of the Treasury website.

Educational Institutions: Buildings

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate his Department has made of the rate of utilisation of *(a)* school and *(b)* sixth form and further education college buildings and facilities by local communities outside normal school hours in the last 12 months. [25823]

Sarah Teather: The Department does not collect data on the use of school and sixth form buildings by local communities beyond the school day. However, the "Extended Services Evaluation: End of Year One Report" (published by the Department in July 2010) suggested that two thirds of the schools were opening at least one of their facilities for community access, most commonly halls, rooms or spaces, sports facilities, and playgrounds and play areas. The report can be viewed at

http://publications.education.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DFE-RR016.pdf

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is responsible for further education colleges.

Family Rights Group: Finance

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has for the funding of the Family Rights Group Advice Service after March 2011. [24402]

Sarah Teather: The Family Rights Group has a long standing financial relationship with the Department. A new procurement process was opened on 6 December to fund telephone helplines and online services from 1 April 2011. The Family Rights Group are able to bid for future funding for their advice service through this process. In advance of this process being completed, I cannot comment on any future funding for the advice service provided by the Family Rights Group after 31 March 2011.

Foster Care: Finance

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of financial support for foster carers between placements; and if he will make a statement; [31615]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of financial support for foster carers; and if he will make a statement. [31617]

Tim Loughton: The Government set a national minimum allowance for foster carers, which in 2010-11 ranges from £106 a week for babies outside London and the south-east to £191 per week for 16 to17-year-olds in London.

It is for fostering service providers to decide whether to pay their foster carers allowances above the national minimum and whether, in addition to the allowance, to pay their carers a fee in recognition of the skills and experience they bring to their role. It is also for providers to decide whether to make payments between placements. They should make these decisions in the light of local circumstances.

It is important that foster carers know what payments will be made to them by their fostering service. We recently consulted on draft revised National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services (NMS) that make clear that fostering services should have a clear and transparent written policy on payments to foster carers, and that this should include their policy on payments during a break in placement. The revised NMS will come into force in April 2011.

The Department is also working with the sector on developing a Charter for Foster Care that sets out what foster carers can expect from their fostering service and local authority and what is expected of them in return. The draft charter is clear that fostering service providers should make sure that their foster carers understand what financial support they will receive, including during gaps in placements.

Further Education Colleges

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* sixth form colleges (i) he, (ii) the Minister of State for Schools and (iii) the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools have visited since May 2010. [27293]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 3 December 2010]*: The following table shows the further education colleges and sixth form colleges visited by the Minister of State for Schools and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools since May 2010. The Secretary of State has made no such visits since this date. He and other Ministers have, however, visited a number of schools with sixth forms.

Date	*College visited*
Minister of State for Schools	
24 June 2010	Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools	
25 November 2010	Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College, Birmingham

In addition the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, as a joint Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Department for Education (DfE) Minister, has visited six further education colleges and one sixth form college.

Ofsted Children's Services Assessment in 2010

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which 12 local authorities were identified as performing poorly in the Ofsted Children's Services Assessment in 2010; and if he will make a statement. [31061]

Tim Loughton: Twelve councils—Birmingham, Calderdale, Doncaster, Essex, Kent, Leeds, Nottinghamshire, Peterborough, Salford, Sandwell, Torbay, and Worcestershire have been assessed as performing poorly in their annual-children's services rating . In each case, the principal reason was that they were judged inadequate following their three yearly inspection of safeguarding arrangements. Improvement activity is already under way in these local authorities and the councils are prioritising this important work.

On 9 December I announced the Government's intention to end the requirement for an annual rating of each local authorities' children's services. This was on the basis that the annual rating adds little over and above the individual inspections that underlie it.

Schools: Sports

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he made of the proportion of school children who undertook two hours of sport or physical activity at school in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [27411]

Tim Loughton: Since 2003/04, the date that the Department started collecting the data, the percentage of pupils taking part in at least two hours high quality PE and sport each week, was as follows:

					Percentage
	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
5 to 16-year-olds taking part in at least two hours high quality PE and sport each week	62	69	80	86	90

In 2008/09 and 2009/10, the survey collected data on the percentage of pupils taking part in at least three hours high quality PE and sport each week, as follows:

		Percentage
	2008/09	*2009/10*
5 to 16-year-olds taking part in at least three hours high quality PE and sport each week	51	57

In addition, the 2009/10 survey collected data relating to the percentage of pupils involved in regular competitive sport, within and between schools, as follows:

		Percentage
	Regular intra-school sport	*Regular inter-school sport*
Percentage of pupils in years 3-13 taking part in regular competitive sport	39	21

High quality PE and sport was defined by the previous Government, as

> "High quality PE and school sport produces young people with the skills, understanding, desire and commitment to continue to improve and achieve in a range of PE, sport and health-enhancing physical activities in line with their abilities".

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what factors he took into account in making his decision to reduce funding to the Schools Sports Partnerships scheme; and if he will make a statement. [28050]

Tim Loughton: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education took into account a range of factors before deciding how best to support school sport in the future. This included the findings of the PE and sport survey, which showed that, despite £2.4 billion of funding and seven years of work, the proportion of pupils taking part in regular competitive sport has remained disappointingly low. The survey showed that only around two in every five pupils play competitive sport regularly within their own school, and only one in five plays regularly against other schools.

The coalition Government have recently reiterated their aim to give schools greater freedom and flexibility including choosing what PE and sport is offered to their pupils and what staff they will need to meet those needs. In order to allow a smooth transition to the new approach, the Department announced on 20 December a package of support to encourage wider take up of competitive sport. This includes further funding of £47 million to support the work of school sport partnerships in August 2011; and new funding of £65 million which will be available to secondary schools until 2013 to increase opportunities in sport for pupils in primary, secondary and special schools.

Secondary Educations: East Yorkshire

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* local authority maintained secondary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in East Yorkshire constituency are in special measures. [28542]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 December 2010]:* As at 9 December 2010, one local authority maintained secondary school in the East Yorkshire constituency is in special measures. There are no other secondary schools in the East Yorkshire constituency in this category.

Special Educational Needs

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the *(a)* provision of special support services for deaf children and *(b)* the number of teachers with a mandatory qualification in teaching deaf children required to provide such services; and if he will make a statement. [25506]

Sarah Teather: The Department does not require local authorities to provide specific information on deaf children. However, the Special Educational Needs (Provision of Information by local Education Authorities) Regulations 2001 and the School Information Regulations 2008 require local authorities to publish their arrangements and policies on the provision available for children with special educational needs, which will include deaf children.

We do not routinely collect data regarding the number of teachers of the hearing impaired by region. Local authorities are responsible for ensuring that teachers of the hearing impaired possess the appropriate mandatory qualification to undertake the role. It is a matter for local authorities to ensure that they have enough qualified teachers to meet their statutory commitments.

The school work force census should from November 2011 collect data on what additional qualifications teachers have and this will allow us, for the first time, to ascertain the numbers of teachers who possess the mandatory qualification for teaching children with sensory impairments.

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to encourage local authority special support services for deaf children to collaborate with other local authority services for the purpose of providing comprehensive support to deaf children. [25783]

Sarah Teather: A wide range of issues are under consideration as part of the forthcoming Green Paper on special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This includes how local authorities can best make use of specialist resources to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND, including those with hearing impairments, in their area.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department has allocated to voluntary sector organisations for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much such funding he plans to provide in 2011-12. [19274]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The voluntary sector receives money from DFE through a number of routes including: direct funding, funding through arm's length bodies, through the money we give to local authorities and from services commissioned by schools. We have recently published information about all DFE payments above £25,000 made between 12 May and 30 September 2010, including payments to voluntary sector organisations. This information can be found at

www.data.gov.uk

or on the DFE website.

Ministers will continue to publish details of departmental expenditure on a monthly basis as part of the Government's commitment to transparency.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to provide a substantive answer to question 29329 on Classwatch, tabled on 2 December 2010 for named day answer on 7 December 2010. [30949]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 15 December 2010]:* A response to PQ29329 was issued on 14 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 734-35W.

Young People: Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether a decision has been made on the funding allocation from his Department to the FRANK drugs campaign in respect of each year of the spending review period. [32058]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* Government are committed to continuing the FRANK service, which has established good levels of awareness and trust amongst young people. While final allocations of funding are yet to be decided this commitment is set out publicly in the new Government Drug Strategy published on 8 December.

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/drug-strategy-2010

TRANSPORT

Departmental NDPBs

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department spent on employing staff on fixed-term contracts in each month since April 2010; [31017]

(2) what expenditure each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department has incurred on staff on fixed-term contracts in each month since April 2010. [31018]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 16 December 2010]:* The cost of staff employed on fixed-term contracts for each non-departmental public body sponsored by this Department in each month since April 2010 is as follows:

Cost of staff employed on fixed-term contracts—2010

£

	RFA	*BTPA*	*DOR Ltd*	*Northern Lighthouse Board*	*Passenger Focus*	*Trinity Lighthouse*
April	14,415	17,000	18.700	2,371.04	46,943	18,551.61
May	14,415	17,000	16.000	3,147.20	48,503	25,207.97
June	14,415	17,000	18.000	3,147.20	41,787	28,531.74
July	14,415	17,000	13.200	3,147.20	23,006	30,088.47
August	14,415	17,000	21.300	3,006.73	24,541	35,631.94
September	14,415	17,000	17.400	2,393.19	26,105	37,566.84
October	14,415	17,000	11.200	0	22,187	40,259.58
November	14,415	17,000	15.300	0	25,322	38,804.60

There were no costs incurred by DPTAC and TCs/DTCs.

DFT non-departmental public bodies are:

RFA: Renewable Fuels Agency

BTPA: British Transport Police Authority

Cycling England

DPTAC: Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee

DOR Ltd: Directly Operated Railways Ltd

NLBL Northern Lighthouse Board

Passenger Focus

TCs and DTCs: Traffic Commissioners and Deputy Traffic Commissioners

TLS: Trinity Lighthouse Service

Cycling England does not exist as its own legal entity—it is essentially part of Department for Transport. It ceases to exist after March 2011.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what savings he expects to accrue from reductions in expenditure in each agency sponsored by his Department in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [19850]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 27 October 2010]:* The Department for Transport sponsors four Executive agencies and three trading funds. The four Executive agencies are: Highways Agency (HA), Maritime and Coastguards Agency (MCA), Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) and Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA). The three trading funds are: Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), Driving Standards Agency, and Vehicle and Operator Services Agency.

The savings to accrue from the HA and MCA have not been individually finalised during the spending review. They will be determined through the production of a financial plan for each agency during the remainder of 2010-11.

The reductions in expenditure from each area of the Department's budget over the spending review period, are set out in the spending review press notice at:

http://nds.coi.gov.uk/clientmicrosite/Content/Detail.aspx?ClientId=202&NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=416118&SubjectId=36

The press notice gives details of the savings measures that are being made within the HA and MCA, and Annex G sets out budgets for the spending review period for the Department's major programme areas, including the 2010-11 baseline and spending review budgets for HA National Roads.

For VCA, GCDA and the trading funds, their spend is offset by income from fees. Any savings are reflected in lower fees to customers and do not accrue to the Department.

Driving: Eyesight

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on changes to the requirements for sight tests for drivers. [32980]

Mike Penning: I met representatives of the Eye Health Alliance at the end of November and confirmed our willingness to work with them to increase awareness among drivers of the importance of good eyesight for driving.

The Department for Transport recently reviewed the arrangements for ensuring driving licences are issued only to those who meet the appropriate vision standards. This review was undertaken in conjunction with the experts of the Secretary of State's Honorary Medical Panel on Visual Disorders and Driving and concluded that the number plate test remains an effective, straightforward means of testing a driver's vision.

Electric Vehicles

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has set for the design of a national recharging network for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. [33126]

Norman Baker: As part of the Department for Transport's structural reform plan, we plan to publish a strategy for promoting the installation of electric vehicle infrastructure by the end of June 2011. This will include details of subsequent actions that we plan to take regarding a national recharging network for electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

Film: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* the production of films and *(b)* filming speeches for use at events since May 2010. [30800]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 15 December 2010]:* Since May 2010 the Department for Transport has spent £6,794.34 on the production of films and £3,636.70 on filming speeches for use at events. These costs are external and do not include internal staff costs.

These costs should be considered alongside the considerable savings made through not travelling to these events, many of which would have required overnight accommodation for Ministers and officials.

The practice of filming speeches is also a demonstration of the Government's commitment to alternatives to travel, which reduces carbon emissions and makes more efficient use of the time of Ministers and officials.

Motorways: Closures

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which sections of motorways in England were closed more than once in either direction between 15 November and 21 December 2010. [32617]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 10 January 2011]:* There were 23 motorways in England that had more than one planned or unplanned main carriageway closures or blockages between 15 November and 21 December, these were M1, M11, M18, M20, M23, M25, M26, M27, M271, M3, M4, M40, M42, M5, M50, M53, M54, M6, M60, M602, M61, M62 and M621.

33% of the closures were due to planned roadworks and 67% were due to unplanned factors such as incidents on the network or other factors such as bad weather, emergency roadworks, obstructions, spillages or animals on the network. Details regarding the duration of each of the closures could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Motorways: M1

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times the M1 motorway was closed in both directions between 15 November and 21 December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [32614]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 10 January 2011]*: The main carriageway of the M1 was closed in both directions once between 15 November and 21 December 2010, at 08:13 until 11:54 on 27 November between Junctions 33 and 34 due to an incident.

Network Rail: Passengers

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* train operating companies the provision of warm waiting areas for passengers; and if he will make a statement. [32798]

Mrs Villiers: The provision of warm waiting areas for passengers is a matter for Network Rail at its managed stations and for the train operators at the stations they control. The Department for Transport does not specify any requirements in this area.

Railways: Construction

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on High Speed 2 since the project's inception. [31413]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 16 December 2010]*: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1003W.

Railways: Severe Weather

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms are in place to ensure effective collaboration between train operating companies and Network Rail when severe weather disrupts the rail network; and if he will make a statement. [32316]

Mrs Villiers: Train operators and Network Rail work together to plan for disruptive events, including bad weather. This includes pre-agreeing which key services to prioritise and setting emergency timetables to be deployed if required.

When such events occur, different elements of the rail industry need to keep in close touch, both at operating level and managerially. In some locations, train operators and Network Rail are located together which allows for immediate face-to-face dialogue and decision taking.

In addition, major incidents are normally reviewed after the event to ensure that any lessons learned from the disruption can be acted on.

As announced in his statement of 22 October 2010, the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), commissioned David Quarmby CBE to conduct an audit of how ready our transport services were for winter conditions. The findings of this audit were published on 21 December 2010, and emphasised the more severe effect of the weather this winter compared with the previous two winters. The rail industry is being asked to formulate proposals on contingency timetables, improve information to passengers, and examine technological improvements. Network Rail and operators will be asked to focus on their post-winter review of operational performance, as recommended in the audit.

The Secretary of State has also asked the Government's chief scientific advisor to update what our planning assumption should be for future severe winter weather.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* the managing director of Southern Railways and *(b)* the chief executive of Network Rail on the treatment of passengers who spent the night on a train between Brighton and London on 1 to 2 December 2010; what assessment he has made of the steps taken by (i) Southern Railways and (ii) Network Rail to avoid such an occurrence; and if he will make a statement. [29346]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport officials have had regular contact with Network Rail and Southern Railway during the adverse weather. This dialogue has included how trains became stranded and what lessons are being learned. I have also discussed issues around stranded trains with senior representatives of the train operators and Network Rail, including the managing director of Southern Railways.

As announced in his statement of 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 79-81WS, the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), commissioned David Quarmby CBE to conduct an audit of how ready our transport services were for winter conditions. The findings of this audit were published on 21 December, and emphasised the more severe effect of the weather this winter compared with the previous two winters. The rail industry is being asked to formulate proposals on contingency timetables, improve information to passengers, and examine technological improvements. Network Rail and operators will be asked to focus on their post-winter review of operational performance, as recommended in the audit.

The Secretary of State has also asked the Government's chief scientific adviser to update what our planning assumption should be for future severe winter weather.

Railways: Suicide

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the joint campaign by Network Rail and the Samaritans to prevent suicides on the rail network. [30646]

Mrs Villiers: The aim of the joint campaign, which began this year and which I am happy to support, is to reduce the number of suicides on the railway by 20% by 2015. The programme is being fully evaluated by RSSB, an independent cross-industry body which is supported by Department for Transport funding.

Railways: Travel Information

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Network Rail real-time operation of the Train Service Information Database; and if he will make a statement. [32052]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State has had no discussions with Network Rail regarding real time operation of the Train Service Information Database. It is for the Office of Rail Regulation to regulate Network Rail, and its compliance with its licence conditions.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many rail carriages he expects to be delivered in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13 and *(d)* 2014-15; [28073]

(2) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 52-56WS, on rail investment, how many of the 650 additional rail carriages will *(a)* be delivered and *(b)* be operational in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13 and (iv) 2013-14. [28074]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 2 December 2010]:* The Government are committed to delivering around 650 additional carriages by March 2014. Of this figure a total of 441 have already been contracted and their delivery into services is set out in the following table.

Additional contracted vehicles

	Contracted and expected to be accepted into service
2010-11[1]	211
2011-12	146
2012-13	—
2013-14	84
Total	441

[1] May 2010 to April 2011.

The Department for Transport is now in commercial negotiations with train operators for the remaining additional carriages and it is expected that these will enter service by the end of the control period in March 2014.

Taxis: Guide Dogs

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many taxi drivers are registered as exempt from an obligation to carry a guide dog in their vehicle on request. [33006]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport's most recent survey of taxi licensing authorities shows that, as at the end of March 2009, 87[1] taxi drivers and 42[1] private hire vehicle drivers were exempt from the obligation to carry guide dogs in their vehicles.

[1] It should be noted that (i) 45 of the 343 licensing authorities did not respond; and (ii) there might be some double-counting as some drivers hold a dual taxi and PHV driver licence.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many instances his Department has recorded of incidents where guide dog owners and their dogs were refused access to taxis in the last five years. [33057]

Norman Baker: Although from time to time we receive correspondence highlighting specific experiences, the Department for Transport does not keep a record of instances where guide dog owners and their dogs were refused access to taxis.

Thameslink

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the extension by two years of the planned timetable for completion of the Thameslink scheme. [31027]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 16 December 2010]:* We are currently forecasting that a 2018 completion of the Thameslink programme will be within the original project budget (based at a 2005-06 price base).

An earlier completion would not be deliverable within the original project budget.

JUSTICE

Approved Premises

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* capacity of and *(b)* occupancy rate at each bail hostel in England and Wales was on the most recent date for which figures are available. [32940]

Mr Blunt: For the purposes of this reply, it is assumed that the question refers to Approved Premises (formerly known as probation or bail hostels).

Occupancy of Approved Premises is calculated as the proportion of available bed-days over a calendar month when beds are occupied. Where beds are temporarily unavailable, due, for example, to repair work, these are counted as occupied. Therefore, occupancy can exceed 100% where an Approved Premises takes in extra residents over its normal capacity and temporary additional beds are provided. This happens only as a short-term measure, to meet operational demands and subject to risk assessment.

The most recent month for which figures are available is November 2010. The following table gives the capacity and occupancy rate of each of the 101 Approved Premises in England and Wales for that month.

Approved Premises provide for enhanced supervision, particularly of high risk of harm offenders on release from custody. It would be much more difficult to provide that level of supervision, were such offenders to be dispersed into less suitable accommodation in the community on release from custody.

Approved Premises	*Town/city*	*Capacity*	*Occupancy (percentage)*
Ashley House	Bristol	22	74.24
Bridge House	Bristol	14	99.8
Brigstocke Road	Bristol	28	100
Glogan House	Bridgwater	16	97.1
Bedford	Bedford	22	100
Napier Road	Luton	20	94.2
Peterborough	Peterborough	29	93
Bunbury House	Ellesmere Port	22	77
Linden Bank	Sandbach	22	90.3
Bowling Green	Carlisle	24	86.3
Burdett Lodge	Derby	27	98.9
Lawson House	Plymouth	19	97.5
Meneghy House	Camborne	18	75.9
The Pines	Bournemouth	15	94.4
Weston	Weymouth	25	76.7
Felmores	Basildon	26	94.6
Ryecroft	Gloucester	18	100
Hestia Battersea	London (Battersea)	10	96.7
Hestia Streatham	London (Streatham)	25	100
Katherine Price Hughes House	London (Highbury)	19	94

Approved Premises	*Town/city*	*Capacity*	*Occupancy (percentage)*
Kelley House	London (Camden)	22	[1]0
Beckenham Road	London (Beckenham)	20	99.5
Camden House	London (Camden)	26	96.8
Canadian Avenue	London (Lewisham)	24	99.6
Ealing	London (Ealing)	18	97.2
Ellison House	London (Lewisham)	29	99.7
Kew	London(Kew)	22	100
Seafield Lodge	London (Kilburn)	20	98.3
Tulse Hill	London (Tulse Hill)	29	98.9
Westbourne House	London (Forest Gate)	41	97.8
Ascot House	Stockport	25	94.1
Bradshaw House	Bury	26	94.1
Chorlton	Manchester	27	96.9
Hopwood House	Heywood	14	77.6
St Joseph's	Manchester	29	93.6
Wilton Place	Oldham	27	101
Withington Road	Manchester	30	100.5
Dickson House	Fareham	19	85.1
Landguard Road	Southampton	22	95.5
The Grange	Purbrook	22	86.2
Queen's Road	Hull	19	100
Victoria House	Scunthorpe	19	99.5
Fleming House	Maidstone	25	96.7
Haworth House	Blackburn	26	93.5
Highfield House	Accrington	22	81.5
Howard House	Leicester	13	98.7
Kirk Lodge	Leicester	32	93.4
Wordsworth House	Lincoln	18	83.1
Adelaide House	Liverpool	20	99.8
Canning House	Liverpool	16	99
Merseybank	Liverpool	24	90.6
Southwood	Liverpool	29	99.1
John Boag House	Norwich	25	94.5
Bridgewood	Northampton	23	99.3
Ozanam House	Newcastle upon Tyne	25	85.5
St Christopher's House	Newcastle upon Tyne	20	95.7
Cuthbert House	Gateshead	24	79.2
Pennywell House	Sunderland	19	95.1
Plas y Wern	Wrexham	23	82.9
Ty Newydd	Bangor	23	83.9
South View	York	22	86.2
Astral Grove	Nottingham	14	99
Southwell House	Nottingham	18	102
Trent House	Nottingham	19	89.5
Quay House	Swansea	25	81.7
Mandeville House	Cardiff	26	93.3
Norfolk Park	Sheffield	32	96
Rookwood	Rotherham	25	90.4
Town Moor	Doncaster	19	98.8
Staitheford House	Stafford	13	104.1
Wenger House	Newcastle under Lyme	25	105.7
Wharflane House	Stoke on Trent	22	100.3
Lightfoot House	Ipswich	22	86.5
The Cottage	Ipswich	14	91.2
St Catherine's Priory	Guildford	13	94.4
Brighton	Brighton	18	90.4
Nelson House	Middlesbrough	22	100
The Crescent	Middlesbrough	20	96.8
Elizabeth Fry House	Reading	22	97.1
Abingdon Road	Oxford	18	99.8
Clark's House	Oxford	18	96.5
Manor Lodge	Windsor	24	95.1
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes	16	81.9
St Leonard's	Reading	22	86.2
McIntyre House	Nuneaton	18	82.2
Augustus House	Leamington Spa	19	94.2
Braley House	Worcester	18	94.1
Bilston	Wolverhampton	15	97.8
Carpenter House	Birmingham (Edgbaston)	20	86.5
Crowley House	Birmingham (Selly Oak)	20	74.5
Elliott House	Birmingham (Moseley)	20	99.3
Stonnall Road	Walsall	12	92.8
Sycamore Lodge	Birmingham (Oldbury)	32	97.9
Welford House	Birmingham (Aston)	19	92.5
Cardigan House	Leeds	25	78.1
Ripon House	Leeds	25	62.3
St John's	Leeds	28	80.2
Albion St	Dewsbury	24	81.1
Elm Bank	Cleckheaton	22	100.3
Holbeck House	Leeds	24	84.4
Westgate	Wakefield	20	109.5

[1] Kelley House is currently closed for refurbishment

Drugs: Convictions

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for drug-related offences resulted in prison sentences in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 in (i) Sussex, (ii) Brighton and Hove and (iii) nationally. [32987]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody for drug offences in the Sussex police force area, Sussex Central Local Justice Area (in which Brighton and Hove magistrates court is located) and England and Wales for the years 2007 to 2009 can be viewed in the table.

Information for Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Office respectively.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody for drug offences in Sussex police force area, Sussex central local justice area (in which Brighton and Hove magistrates court is located), and England and Wales for the years 2007 to 2009[1,2]

Found guilty/ sentence/area	*2007*	*2008*[3]	*2009*
Sussex police force area			
Found guilty	1,141	1,270	1,420
Immediate custody	327	341	396
Sussex (central)			
Found guilty	230	279	266
Immediate custody	5	14	4
England and Wales			
Found guilty	44,565	52,943	56,793
Immediate custody	8,186	9,488	9,425

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Ford Prison

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners formerly held in Category A, B or C prisons were held at HM Prison Ford on 31 December 2010. [33046]

Mr Blunt: On 31 December 2010 Ford prison held 487 prisoners. All of these prisoners will have been formerly held in one or more of categories A, B or C prisons during their current sentence. To provide details on precise numbers by category would involve the examination of each individual prisoner's file, many of whom are no longer at HMP Ford, and would involve disproportionate cost.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were being held at HM Prison Ford at the time of the disturbance in December 2010 and January 2011; and how many of these were prisoners with convictions for violent offences. [33047]

Mr Blunt: On 31 December 2010 Ford prison held 487 prisoners. To establish whether these prisoners had convictions for violent offences would involve the examination of the files of each individual prisoner, many of whom are no longer at HMP Ford, and would involve disproportionate cost.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison *(a)* officers and *(b)* wardens (i) were scheduled to be on duty and (ii) were on duty at HM Prison Ford on (A) 30 December 2010, (B) 31 December 2010 and (C) 1 January 2011. [33048]

Mr Blunt: The information is set out in the table. For 30 and 31 December 2010 the first figure in each box indicates the total number of officers and senior officers actually on duty. The second figure is the number of Operational Support Grades actually on duty. In all cases the number of staff on duty was the same number as the staff scheduled to be on duty. The figures in all cases are at or above the risk assessed minimum staffing level.

The figures for 1 January are planned staffing levels only. Once the disturbance at Ford took place a number of Ford staff were called in to the prison or arrived voluntarily. These figures are not available at present.

Date	*7.30 am to 1 pm*	*1 pm to 5 pm*	*5 pm to 9 pm*	*9 pm to 7.30 am*
30 December 2010	20+7	21+7	8+3	2+5
31 December 2010	17+8	24+7	9+2	2+4
1 January 2011 (planned staff)	11+2	13+2	8+2	2+4

Guide Dogs: Taxis

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many taxi drivers have been prosecuted for offences related to refusing access to a taxi to a guide dog owner and the dog in the last five years. [33005]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under S37a of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, England and Wales, 2005-09 (latest available), is shown in the following table.

Section 37 placed duties on the drivers of taxis and private hire vehicles respectively. The duties were (i) to carry a passenger's assistance dog and allow it to remain with the passenger; and (ii) not to make any additional charge for doing so.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring 2011.

Number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts for offences under section 37a of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995[1], England and Wales, 2005-09[2, 3, 4]

Proceeded against	*Number*
2005	6
2006	5
2007	11
2008[4]	8
2009	—

[1] Disability Discrimination Act 1995 S37a as added by Private Hire Vehicles (Carriage of Guide Dogs etc.) Act 2002 S.1 Failure or refusal to carry, or accept a booking for a private hire vehicle because booking was requested by disabled person, or person accompanying disabled person, with an assistance dog.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Human Trafficking: Children

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress his Department has made on providing guardians ad litem for child victims of human trafficking; and if he will make a statement. [31073]

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not believe that the introduction of a system of guardianship would be helpful here. Responsibility for the care, protection and accommodation of child trafficking victims rests with local authorities under their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. Separated and vulnerable children from abroad have the same entitlements as UK born or resident children.

Where a child becomes looked after by a local authority, a social worker will be responsible for putting in place an individualised care plan covering the full range of the child's needs. This will include any needs identified following an assessment which concludes that they may have been trafficked. The social worker will also make an assessment of the type of placement which best matches the needs of the child including, if necessary, the need to safeguard them from contact with traffickers.

The additional involvement of a guardian risks adding unhelpful complexity to existing arrangements; there is already a risk of confusion for children themselves if plans for their care are not effectively coordinated by the local authority.

Multi-agency Public Protection Panels

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were being monitored by multi-agency public protection panels on the latest date for which figures are available. [33108]

Mr Blunt: A total of 3,851 people were being monitored at Level 2 and 3 under the multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) on 31 March 2010, the latest date for which figures are available. Level 2 and 3 cases have been assessed as requiring active multi-agency management and resources. Level 1 MAPPA cases are those cases where standard management by a single agency is sufficient to manage the risk posed by qualifying offenders.

This information is set out in table 1 of the Ministry of Justice Statistics bulletin "Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements Annual Report 2009/10", published on 27 October 2010. I am placing a copy in the Library of the House.

Offenders: Females

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made on the effectiveness of funding projects for the Diverting Women from Custody programme in preventing criminal behaviour. [32607]

Mr Blunt: Under the Diverting Women from Custody programme, the Ministry of Justice is providing over £10 million in the period to March 2011 to established voluntary sector providers to develop women's community projects that tackle the complex and underlying causes of women's offending. The Ministry has been monitoring the extent to which projects have been effective in reducing women's offending; most notably we are undertaking analysis of the re-offending rates of a national sample of women participating in the projects. The Ministry will be using these analyses and evidence drawn from a range of other sources to inform our ongoing approach to diverting women from custody and associated decisions about future funding.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had on the recent evaluation of the multi-agency one-stop-shop for women offenders co-ordinated by Brighter Futures Housing Association. [32628]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is currently evaluating the success of Brighter Futures in reducing women's offending, alongside other similar projects for which the Ministry has allocated funding of over £10 million in the period up to March 2011. In doing so, we will use the specific evaluation undertaken by Keele university as well as wider evidence.

Open Prisons

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what criteria are used to determine whether a prisoner is suitable for an open prison; and whether any change has been made to such criteria since May 2010; [33053]

(2) how many prisoners serving sentences in open prisons in England and Wales do not meet his Department's criteria for accommodation in such prisons. [33054]

Mr Blunt: Prisoners are categorised and allocated to open prison (Category D) following an established risk assessment process set out in the National Security Framework as amended by Prison Service Instructions 16/2008 and 3/2009, which remain in force. Prisoners may be assessed as suitable for open conditions if they present a low risk of harm to the public, are considered to be trustworthy not to abscond from low security conditions and, for those serving a lengthy prison sentence, in general, within two years of their earliest release date. Prisoners who do not meet these criteria are not moved to open conditions, and those who are later considered to have increased those risks while in open conditions would be moved back to closed conditions.

Prisons: Alcohol

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* confiscations of alcohol and *(b)* other alcohol-related incidents have been recorded in prisons in England and Wales in the last six months. [32928]

Mr Blunt: Finds of alcohol within prisons are treated as a miscellaneous incident and recorded on the Prison Service Incident Reporting System. These incidents are in a format that cannot readily be interrogated electronically. To provide the information requested would involve the manual inspection of more than 5,507 miscellaneous incident records for the last six months which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

NOMS has in place a strategy to reduce both the supply and the demand for alcohol with a comprehensive range of security measures and searching techniques to detect items of contraband, including alcohol, and prevent smuggling into establishments. It is a criminal offence to convey alcohol into prison and prisoners caught in possession of alcohol within prison face disciplinary action. Alcohol consumption is a cause of criminality in society and many prisons have programmes in place to assist prisoners to lessen their dependence on alcohol.

Prisons: Manpower

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers and wardens *(a)* were scheduled to be on duty and (b) were on duty at each open prison in England on (i) 30 December 2010, (ii) 31 December 2010 and (iii) 1 January 2011. [33049]

Mr Blunt: The number of senior officers (SO), prison officers and operational support grades (OSG) scheduled for duty (i) on 30 December 2010, (ii) on 31 December 2010 and (iii) on 1 December 2011 is summarised in tables 1 to 3.

The number of senior officers (SO), prison officers and operational support grades (OSG) actually on duty (i) on 30 December 2010, (ii) on 31 December 2010 and (iii) on duty on 1 January 2011 is summarised in tables 4 to 6.

Staffing levels at HMP Ford are addressed in the response to PQ 33048.

In the tables, where the figures are not broken down by am, pm and evening duty shifts, the number indicates the average number of staff of that grade across the three shifts.

Table 1: Scheduled staffing on 30 December 2010

Scheduled staffing daytime 30 December 2010

	SO			*Officer*			*OSG*			*Total*		
Prison	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*
Open												
Askham Grange		1			6			3			10	
East Sutton Park (female)	1	1	1	5	5	4	4	4	1	10	10	6
Hatfield/Moorland	3	3	1	16	14	6	9	7	2	28	24	9
Hewell		2			6			4			12	
Hollesley Bay		2			16			5			23	
Kirkham		8			19			11			38	
Leyhill	2	2	1	15	17	10	4	5	2	21	24	13
North Sea Camp		4			16			4			24	
Spring Hill	2	2	1	8	8	4	7	7	2	17	17	7
Standford/Sheppey	5	5	2	13	14	8	6	5	2	24	23	12
Sudbury		7			18			6			31	
Thorn Cross (YO)	4	5	3	32	31	18		—		29	29	15
Usk/Prescoed	1	1	1	6	6	4	4	4	1	11	11	6
Resettlement												
Blantyre	2	2	1	8	7	4	4	4	2	14	13	7
Latchmere House	4	4	1	10	12	4	5	6	2	19	22	7
Kirklevington Grange		3			18			8			29	

Scheduled staffing night 30 December 2010

Prison	*SO*	*Officer*	*OSG*	*Total*
Open				
Askham Grange	0	1	2	3
East Sutton Park (female)	—	1	2	3

	Scheduled staffing night 30 December 2010			
Prison	*SO*	*Officer*	*OSG*	*Total*
Hatfield/ Moorland	—	2	5	7
Hewell	0	1	3	4
Hollesley Bay	0	2	5	7
Kirkham	1	2	3	6
Leyhill	1	3	4	8
North Sea Camp	0	2	4	6
Spring Hill	—	2	2	4
Standford/ Sheppey	1	2	4	7
Sudbury	1	2	4	7
Thorn Cross (YO)	1	1	7	9
Usk/ Prescoed		1	3	4
Resettlement				
Blantyre		2	2	4
Latchmere House		2	2	4
Kirklevington Grange		2	5	7

Table 2: Scheduled staffing on 31 December 2010

	Scheduled staffing daytime 31 December 2010											
		SO			*Officer*			*OSG*			*Total*	
Prison	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*
Open												
Askham Grange		1			6			3			10	
East Sutton Park (female)	1	1	1	3	5	3	2	1	1	6	7	5
Hatfield/Moorland	3	3	1	16	15	6	8	6	1	27	24	8
Hewell		2			6			4			12	
Hollesley Bay		3			16			5			24	
Kirkham		3			19			11			33	
Leyhill	2	2	1	13	11	9	4	4	3	19	7	13
North Sea Camp		4			14			4			22	
Spring Hill	1	2	1	10	8	4	5	4	2	16	5	7
Standford/Sheppey	5	5	2	13	4	8	6	5	2	24	23	12
Sudbury		7			19			7			33	
Thorn Cross (YO)	4	4	2	25	25	13				29	29	15
Usk/Prescoed	2	2	1	5	7	4	4	4	1	11	13	6
Resettlement												
Blantyre	3	3	1	8	7	4	3	2	2	14	12	7
Latchmere House	2	2	1	7	8	4	5	4	2	14	14	7
Kirklevington Grange		3			18			7			28	

	Scheduled staffing night 31 December 2010			
Prison	*SO*	*Officer*	*OSG*	*Total*
Open				
Askham Grange	0	1	2	3
East Sutton Park (female)	—	1	2	3
Hatfield/Moorland	—	2	5	7
Hewell	0	1	3	4
Hollesley Bay	0	2	5	7
Kirkham	1	2	3	6
Leyhill	1	3	4	8
North Sea Camp	0	2	4	6
Spring Hill	—	2	2	4
Standford/Sheppey	1	2	4	7
Sudbury	1	2	4	7
Thorn Cross (YO)	1	1	7	9
Usk/Prescoed		1	3	4
Resettlement				
Blantyre		2	2	4
Latchmere House		2	2	4
Kirklevington Grange		2	5	7

Table 3: Scheduled staffing on 1 January 2011

	Scheduled staffing daytime 1 January 2011											
	SO			Officer			OSG			Total		
Prison	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*
Open												
Askham Grange (F)		1			4			1			6	
East Sutton Park (F)	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	6	5	5
Hatfield/Moorland	1	1	1	6	6	6	2	2	1	9	9	8
Hewell		1			4			2			7	
Hollesley Bay		1			12			1			14	
Kirkham		1			9			6			16	
Leyhill	2	2	1	8	10	9	2	2	2	12	14	12
North Sea Camp			1			7			1			9
Spring Hill	1	1	1	5	9	4	1	1	1	7	11	6
Standford/Sheppey	2	2	2	8	10	8	5	5	2	15	17	12
Sudbury		3			12			5			20	
Thorn Cross (YO)	2	2	2	17	20	15		—		19	22	17
Usk/Prescoed	1	1	1	4	4	4	3	2	1	8	7	6
Resettlement												
Blantyre	1	1	1	4	4	4	2	2	2	7	7	7
Latchmere House	1	1	1	4	4	4	2	2	1	7	7	6
Kirklevington Grange		1			6			3			10	

	Scheduled staffing night 1 January 2011			
Prison	*SO*	*Officer*	*OSG*	*Total*
Open				
Askham Grange (F)	0	1	2	3
East Sutton Park (F)	—	1	2	3
Hatfield/Moorland	—	2	5	7
Hewell	0	1	3	4
Hollesley Bay	0	2	5	7
Kirkham	1	2	3	6
Leyhill	1	3	4	8
North Sea Camp	0	2	4	6
Spring Hill	—	2	2	4
Standford/Sheppey	1	2	4	7
Sudbury	1	2	4	7
Thorn Cross (YO)	1	1	7	9
Usk/Prescoed	—	1	3	4
Resettlement				
Blantyre	—	2	2	4
Latchmere House	—	2	2	4
Kirklevington Grange	—	2	5	7

Table 4: Actual staffing on 30 December 2010

	Actual staffing daytime 30 December 2010											
	SO			Officer			OSG			Total		
Prison	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*
Open												
Askham Grange		1			8			5			14	
East Sutton Park (female)	1	1	1	5	5	4	4	4	1	10	10	6
Hatfield/ Moorland	3	3	1	16	14	6	9	7	2	28	24	9
Hewell		2			5			4			11	
Hollesley Bay		2			16			5			23	
Kirkham		8			19			11			38	
Leyhill	2	2	1	15	17	10	4	5	2	21	24	13
North Sea Camp		4			16			4			24	
Spring Hill	2	2	1	8	8	4	7	7	2	17	17	7
Standford/ Sheppey	5	5	2	11	11	7	9	8	2	25	24	11
Sudbury		7			18			6			31	
Thorn Cross (YO)	5	5	3	32	31	18	—			29	29	15
Usk/Prescoed		1			20			10			31	

Table 4: Actual staffing on 30 December 2010

Actual staffing daytime 30 December 2010

Prison	*SO*			*Officer*			*OSG*			*Total*		
	AM	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*
Resettlement												
Blantyre	2	2	1	8	7	4	4	4	2	14	13	7
Latchmere House	4	4	1	10	12	4	5	6	2	19	22	7
Kirklevington Grange		3			18			8			29	

Actual staffing night 30 December 2010

Prison	*SO*	*Officer*	*OSG*	*TOTAL*
Open				
Askham Grange	0	1	2	3
East Sutton Park (Female)	—	1	2	3
Hatfield/ Moorland	—	2	5	7
Hewell	—	1	3	4
Hollesley Bay	0	2	5	7
Kirkham	1	2	3	6
Leyhill	1	3	4	8
North Sea Camp	0	2	4	6
Spring Hill	—	2	2	4
Standford/ Sheppey	1	2	4	7
Sudbury	1	2	4	7
Thorn Cross (YO)	1	1	7	9
Usk/Prescoed		1	3	4
Resettlement				
Blantyre	—	2	2	4
Latchmere House	—	2	2	4
Kirklevington Grange	—	2	5	7

Table 5: Actual staffing on 31 December 2010

Actual staffing daytime 31 December 2010

Prison	*SO*			*Officer*			*OSG*			*Total*		
	AM	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*
Open												
Askham Grange		1			4			2			7	
East Sutton Park (female)	1	1	1	3	5	3	2	1	1	6	7	5
Hatfield/Moorland	2	3	1	16	15	6	8	6	1	26	24	8
Hewell		2			4			4			10	
Hollesley Bay		3			16			5			24	
Kirkham		3			19			11			33	
Leyhill	2	2	1	13	11	9	4	4	3	19	17	13
North Sea Camp		4			14			4			22	
Spring Hill	1	2	1	10	8	4	5	4	2	16	15	7
Standford/Sheppey	4	6	2	13	11	7	5	5	2	22	22	11
Sudbury		7			19			7			33	
Thorn Cross (YO)	4	4	2	25	25	13		—		29	29	15
Usk/Prescoed		6			14			9			29	
Resettlement												
Blantyre	3	3	1	8	7	4	3	2	2	14	12	7
Latchmere House	2	2	1	7	8	4	5	4	2	14	14	7
Kirklevington Grange		3			18			7			28	

Actual staffing night 31 December 2010

Prison	*SO*	*Officer*	*OSG*	*Total*
Open				
Askham Grange	0	1	2	3
East Sutton Park (Female)	—	1	2	3
Hatfield/ Moorland	—	2	5	7
Hewell	—	1	3	4
Hollesley Bay	0	3	6	9

	Actual staffing night 31 December 2010			
Prison	*SO*	*Officer*	*OSG*	*Total*
Kirkham	1	2	3	6
Leyhill	1	3	4	8
North Sea Camp	0	2	4	6
Spring Hill		2	2	4
Standford/Sheppey	1	2	4	7
Sudbury	1	2	4	7
Thorn Cross (YO)	1	1	7	9
Usk/Prescoed	—	1	3	4
Resettlement				
Blantyre		2	2	4
Latchmere House		2	2	4
Kirklevington Grange		2	5	7

Table 6: Actual staffing on 1 January 2011

	Actual staffing daytime 1 January 2011											
	SO			Officer			OSG			Total		
Prison	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*	*AM*	*PM*	*ED*
Open												
Askham Grange		1			4			1			6	
East Sutton Park (Female)	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	6	5	5
Hatfield/Moorland	1	1	1	6	7	6	2	2	1	9	19	8
Hewell		1			4			2			7	
Hollesley Bay		1			12			1			14	
Kirkham		1			9			6			16	
Leyhill	2	2	1	8	10	9	2	2	2	12	14	12
North Sea Camp		1			7			1			9	
Spring Hill	1	1	1	5	9	4	1	1	1	7	11	6
Standford/Sheppey	2	2	2	10	12	9	3	4	3	15	18	14
Sudbury		3			12			5			20	
Thorn Cross (YO)	2	2	2	17	20	15		-		19	22	17
Usk/Prescoed		1			14			3			18	
Resettlement												
Blantyre	1	1	1	4	4	4	2	2	2	7	7	7
Latchmere House	1	1	1	4	4	4	2	2	1	7	7	6
Kirklevington Grange		1			6			3			10	

	Actual staffing night 1 January 2001			
Prison	*SO*	*Officer*	*OSG*	*Total*
Open				
Askham Grange	0	1	2	3
East Sutton Park (Female)		2	2	3
Hatfield/Moorland		2	5	7
Hewell	—	1	3	4
Hollesley Bay	0	2	5	7
Kirkham	1	2	3	6
Leyhill	1	3	4	8
North Sea Camp	0	2	4	6
Spring Hill		2	2	4
Standford/Sheppey	1	2	4	7
Sudbury	1	2	4	7
Thorn Cross (YO)	1	1	7	9
Usk/Prescoed		1	3	4
Resettlement				
Blantyre		2	2	4
Latchmere House		2	2	4
Kirklevington Grange		2	5	7

Reoffenders: Young Offenders

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders in custody in England and Wales are repeat offenders. [32938]

Mr Blunt: 1,473 of the 1,569 young offenders (ages 15-17) serving an immediate custodial sentence in prison establishments at 30 June 2009 had at least one previous caution or conviction. These figures are taken from table 7.31 in "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009" which was published on 22 July 2010.

These criminal history figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Tribunals Service: Waiting Lists

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average waiting time was for benefit appeals at the Tribunal Service in *(a)* Great Britain and *(b)* Scotland in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010; [32446]

(2) what the *(a)* shortest and *(b)* longest time period was for which an appellant had to wait for a Tribunal Service hearing for a benefit appeal in Scotland in 2010. [32447]

Mr Djanogly: The average waiting time for benefit appeals in the Tribunals Service in *(a)* Great Britain and *(b)* Scotland in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010 is shown in the following table.

	Average clearance times (weeks)	
Year[1]	National	Scotland
2008	9.50	9.01
2009	13.69	11.89
2010	16.78	15.73

[1] Information is presented for each calendar year from January to December. Information for 2010 is given for January to June 2010.

Notes:

1. The table provides average waiting times from the First-Tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support receiving the appeal to disposal of that appeal.
2. An appeal may be disposed of without being heard, or be heard on more than one day, for example a hearing may be adjourned for further evidence to be gathered.
3. Information is not provided for Northern Ireland.

The First-Tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support does not hold information on the single shortest and longest period an appellant waited for a benefit appeal hearing. The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost by manually checking each individual case file. However, during the period January to June 2010, there were 24,600 appeals disposed of in Scotland. Of these, 10% were disposed of within four weeks and 0.2% were aged 52 weeks or more, when disposed of. An appeal may be disposed of without being heard, or be heard on more than one day, for example a hearing may be adjourned for further evidence to be gathered.

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place to take into account the financial circumstances of those waiting for a Tribunal Service hearing for a benefit appeal; and if he will make a statement. [32448]

Mr Djanogly: The Tribunals Service does not hold details on the financial circumstances of those appellants who are making an appeal. Nevertheless, where notified that an appellant is suffering from extreme hardship the Tribunals Service will, as a matter of urgency, take steps to arrange a hearing as soon as possible.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Cosmetics: Animal Experiments

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will take steps to ensure that the 2013 target date for banning the sale of cosmetics containing ingredients tested on animals in the EU is met; and if he will make a statement; [33099]

(2) what information his Department has collected on the level of public support for a ban on the sale of cosmetics containing ingredients tested on animals; and if he will make a statement. [33103]

Mr Davey: Under the European Cosmetics Directive there is already a ban on the sale of products tested or containing ingredients tested on animals for cosmetic purposes since March 2009, with the exception that tests for repeat toxicity, reproductive toxicity and toxicokinetics are not yet covered as no alternatives are in place. The marketing ban will be extended to cover those tests in March 2013. The Department has not surveyed public views on the subject of animal testing in relation to cosmetics, although it carries out an annual survey on public attitudes to animal testing generally.

Degrees

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many university students received third class honours degrees in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1990, *(c)* 2000, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2010. [32568]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the following table. Figures covering qualifiers by classification prior to 1994/95 are not available, and figures for 2009/10 will be available mid-January 2011. More detailed information on degree classification can be found in the following publication by HESA:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/view/1578/161/

First degree qualifiers by classification, UK higher education institutions

Academic years 1994/95, 2000/01, 2005/06 and 2008/09	
Academic year	Third class honours/pass[1]
1994/95	24,005
2000/01	21,150
2005/06	22,845
2008/09	23,800

[1] Following publication conventions of HESA, third class, fourth class and pass categories have been aggregated.

Note:

Figures are based on a qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Export Credit Guarantees: Human Rights

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what due diligence criteria the Export Credits Guarantee Department uses to ensure that no companies undertaking projects supported by the Department engage in activities which risk abusing *(a)* human rights and *(b)* the environment. [32527]

Mr Davey: It is ECGD's policy to comply with international agreements that apply to the operations of export credit agencies. ECGD considers the environmental impacts, including social and human rights impacts, of projects in accordance with the OECD Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits. This agreement requires projects to be benchmarked against relevant international standards, principally those of the World Bank Group, to determine the acceptability of any environmental, social and human rights impacts.

Free School Meals

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students at each university in England were previously in receipt of free school meals in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [32600]

Mr Willetts: The information requested is shown in the table. These figures relate to pupils who were in receipt of free school meals (FSM). It is known that not all pupils who are eligible for FSM claim them. Such pupils would be excluded from the figures shown. These figures have been estimated using matched data from the National Pupil Database and the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record. These rounded estimates allow for a small margin of error that arises as result of the matching procedure deployed.

Estimates of the number of FSM pupils aged 15 in English maintained schools who progress to HE by age 19, by English Higher Education Institution

UK higher education institution	*2007/08*
The Open University[1]	145
Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln	10
Buckinghamshire New University	70
Central School of Speech and Drama	—
University of Chester	85
Canterbury Christ Church University	55
York St John University	30
University College Plymouth St Mark and St John	5
Edge Hill University	120
University College Falmouth	15
Harper Adams University College	5
The University of Winchester	30
Liverpool Hope University	100
University of the Arts, London	110
University of Bedfordshire	135
The University of Northampton	75
Newman College of Higher Education	50
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	15
Roehampton University	160
Rose Bruford College	—
Royal Academy of Music	—
Royal College of Music	0
Royal Northern College of Music	
Southampton Solent University	90
Cumbria Institute of the Arts	0
St Mary's University College, Twickenham	40
Leeds Trinity and All Saints	15
Trinity Laban	—
The University of Worcester	30
Anglia Ruskin University	95
Bath Spa University	30
The University of Bolton	60
Bournemouth University	75
The University of Brighton	95
Birmingham City University	300
The University of Central Lancashire	220
University of Gloucestershire	30
Coventry University	150
University of Derby	95
The University of East London	300
The University of Greenwich	265
University of Hertfordshire	310
The University of Huddersfield	175
The University of Lincoln	80
Kingston University	405
Leeds Metropolitan University	190
Liverpool John Moores University	300
The Manchester Metropolitan University	425
Middlesex University	335
De Montfort University	250
The University of Northumbria at Newcastle	130
The Nottingham Trent University	160
Oxford Brookes University	35
The University of Plymouth	100
The University of Portsmouth	100
Sheffield Hallam University	190
London South Bank University	215
Staffordshire University	90
The University of Sunderland	110
The University of Teesside	175
Thames Valley University	105
University of the West of England, Bristol	85
The University of Chichester	25
The University of Westminster	425
The University of Wolverhampton	275
Aston University	160
The University of Bath	15
The University of Birmingham	125
The University of Bradford	260
The University of Bristol	25
Brunel University	255
The University of Cambridge	20
The City University	160
University of Durham	35

Estimates of the number of FSM pupils aged 15 in English maintained schools who progress to HE by age 19, by English Higher Education Institution

UK higher education institution	*2007/08*
The University of East Anglia	50
The University of Essex	65
The University of Exeter	25
The University of Hull	90
The University of Keele	40
The University of Kent	95
The University of Lancaster	50
The University of Leeds	100
The University of Leicester	55
The University of Liverpool	105
Birkbeck College	20
Goldsmiths College	105
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	35
Institute of Education	0
King's College London	125
London School of Economics and Political Science	15
Queen Mary and Westfield College	325
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	40
The Royal Veterinary College	—
St George's Hospital Medical School	25
The School of Oriental and African Studies	35
The School of Pharmacy	15
University College London	60
University of London (institutes and activities)	0
Loughborough University	50
The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	40
The University of Nottingham	70
The University of Oxford	20
The University of Reading	40
The University of Salford	200
The University of Sheffield	75
The University of Southampton	45
The University of Surrey	45
The University of Sussex	55
The University of Warwick	30
The University of York	25
Writtle College	10
Norwich School of Art and Design	0
Royal Agricultural College	0
The Arts Institute at Bournemouth	15
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	5
Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies	55
Courtauld Institute of Art	0
London Metropolitan University	295
The University of Buckingham	0
The University of Manchester	155
Heythrop College	5
The University College for the Creative Arts	70
Leeds College of Music	—
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	
The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	0
University Campus Suffolk	15

[1] The Open University is classified as an English institution due to the location of its administrative centre, although it teaches across the UK.

Note:

The figures for FSM pupils are based on those recorded as such on Pupil Level Census. As this is a snapshot of pupils in one year, this will exclude pupils who claimed free school meals in previous years. Also some parents may choose not to apply for FSM. Children from these families who progress to HE institutions would not be included in the table.

Source:

Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record. All figures are estimates and have been rounded to the nearest five, figures less than five are shown as '—', zero counts are shown as '0'.

Hargreaves Review of Intellectual Property and Growth

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many people were interviewed for posts as advisers for the Hargreaves Review of Intellectual Property and Growth; [32609]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the brief given to the individual responsible for interviewing candidates for posts on the advisory team of experts for the Hargreaves Review on Intellectual Property and Growth. [32610]

Mr Davey: No candidates were interviewed for posts as advisers to the independent Review of Intellectual Property and Growth. The members of the independent panel which will advise Professor Ian Hargreaves were selected in order to equip the review with a range of relevant expertise, including in business, innovation, economics and aspects of intellectual property.

Higher Education: Sunderland

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from Sunderland local authority area entered each higher education institution in each academic year between 1997-98 and 2008-09. [32383]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information on the number of entrants from Sunderland local authority to higher education courses at UK higher education institutions will be placed in the Libraries of the House. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011. Comparable local authority level information for entrants to higher education courses at further education institutions is not available.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 8 November 2010 concerning Ms E Massey. [32491]

Mr Davey: I responded to this letter on 4 January 2011.

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to respond to the letter of 13 April 2010 from the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Livingston to the then Minister for Postal Affairs. [32887]

Mr Davey: I regret that we can find no record of a letter from the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Livingston to the then Minister for Postal Affairs, dated 13 April 2010.

If the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Livingston would write again, or provide a copy of the original letter, I will respond as soon as possible.

Post Bank: Public Finance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of creating a state-backed Post Office Bank. [32363]

Mr Davey: We have looked carefully at the different options for providing financial services through the post office network, including the case for creating a state-backed Post Office Bank.

The cost of setting up a Post Office Bank would have three main components. First, the need for Government to capitalise Post Office Ltd. (POL) to allow it to obtain a banking license and lend off of its own balance sheet. Second, exiting existing contractual arrangements relating to the provision of financial services through the post office network. Third, operational costs associated with setting up and running a new financial services unit within POL. The level of public funding required would depend on the remit and performance of a Post Office Bank.

We have concluded that the announced £1.34 billion of funding for POL over the spending review period will be better used maintaining and modernising the network to safeguard its future, ensuring that there will be no further programme of Post Office closures.

Refugees: Higher Education

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will take steps to ensure that refugee learners are included in his Department's proposals to widen participation in and ensure equal access to further and higher education; [32512]

(2) if he will put in place mechanisms to assist refugee students who meet a university's entry requirements but who are unable to pay tuition fees; [32513]

(3) if he will take steps to ensure that the equivalent and lower qualification policy for student support enables refugees who do not have evidence of their higher education certificates from overseas to fund their undergraduate study in England; [32514]

(4) if he will take steps to ensure that refugees accepted to a bachelor honours degree course as home students are not disadvantaged by the equivalent and lower qualification policy when applying for student support for tuition fee loans. [32515]

Mr Willetts: The Government support widening participation and improving fair access in higher education. All those who have the ability should be able to benefit from higher education irrespective of family income. The Government will provide up-front financial support for any student who is eligible and who secures a place at university.

In England, home fee status and student support are available to refugees and their family members as long as they have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands since being recognised as a refugee. There are no plans to change this. The previous Government introduced the equivalent and lower qualification policy and it applies equally to refugees. This Government recognises it has attracted a good deal of criticism.

We are reviewing the whole higher education system and will be publishing a White Paper later this winter.

Royal Mail: Contracts

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had on Royal Mail's plans for the future of its contracts for services with small and medium-sized enterprises; and if he will make a statement. [33070]

Mr Davey: Royal Mail's contracts with small and medium-sized enterprises are an operational matter for the company.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Scholarships

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much he plans to allocate to the National Scholarship Programme in each year to 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [32601]

Mr Willetts: The National Scholarship Programme will be introduced in 2012. In the financial year 2012-13, the Government will make available £50 million. This will rise to £100 million in 2013-14 and £150 million in 2014-15.

We want to draw on expertise from universities and others with a proven track record in widening access, as well as students themselves. So we are working with organisations such as the Office for Fair Access, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the National Union of Students, Universities UK, the Sutton Trust and others. They are helping to design the best model and to ensure a fair deal for less well off students. The group has been invited to look at options and suggest ideas of their own.

For those universities charging above £6,000 per annum graduate contribution, participation in the National Scholarship Programme will be a requirement. These universities will be required to make a match funding contribution.

Student Loans Company

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the Student Loans Company. [32409]

Mr Willetts: The forthcoming Higher Education White Paper, due to be published early in 2011, will set out any proposals affecting the Student Loans Company.

Student Numbers

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many students were enrolled in universities in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1990, *(c)* 2000, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2010, and how many students enrolled in universities did not complete their courses in (i) 1980, (ii) 1990, (iii) 2000, (iv) 2005 and (v) 2010; [32566]

(2) how many final year university students failed to attain a pass degree in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1990, *(c)* 2000, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2010. [32567]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency's (HESA) 'Performance Indicators in Higher Education' on non-completion rates and numbers is shown in the table. Non-completion refers to the number or proportion of UK-domiciled full-time first degree starters who are projected to neither gain an award nor transfer to another UK higher education institution.

Non-completion rates were first published for the 1996/97 academic year, therefore earlier years are not available. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will become available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) in April 2011. More information on non-completion in higher education is available from HESA's Performance Indicators at the following link:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/category/2/32/141/

Non-completion of UK domiciled full-time first degree starters(1): UK higher education institutions academic years 1996/97, 2000/01, 2005/06 and 2007/08

Academic year	*Total number of full-time first degree starters*	*Number projected to neither gain an award nor transfer*	*Percentage projected to neither gain an award nor transfer*
1996/97	267,825	42,315	15.8
2000/01	286,150	42,925	15.0
2005/06	338,920	47,790	14.1
2007/08	340,445	44,260	13.0

[1] Refers to UK-domiciled full-time first degree students of all ages starting a first degree who were projected to neither gain an award nor transfer to another UK higher education institution.

Note:

Numbers are rounded to the nearest five and percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

Source:

HESA 'Performance Indicators in Higher Education'.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UK students enrolled in universities in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1990, *(c)* 2000, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2010 were (i) educated in the state sector and (ii) recipients of free school meals when in full-time education. [32577]

Mr Willetts: Two sets of figures are given. These are not comparable as they use different data sources and underlying populations.

Figures relating to students from state schools, are shown in Table 1, and use data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record. These are published as part of HESA's "Performance Indicators in Higher Education" and cover the number and proportion of young (aged under 21) full-time first degree entrants who attended state schools or college. This data was first published for the 1997/98 academic year, so earlier figures are not available. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be published by HESA in April 2011. More information on HESA's Performance Indicators can be found at the following link:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/category/2/32/141/

Table 1: Number and proportion of young[1] full-time first degree entrants from state schools or colleges, UK higher education institutions

Academic years 1997/98, 2000/01, 2005/06 and 2008/09

Academic year	*Number from state schools or colleges*	*Percentage from state schools or colleges*
1997/98	145,460	81.8
2000/01	163,265	85.7
2005/06	206,615	87.4
2008/09	234,680	88.5

[1] Covers entrants aged under 21.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest five and percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

Source:

HESA "Performance Indicators in Higher Education"

Figures relating to students who were previously in receipt of free school meals (FSM) and attended English maintained schools are shown in Table 2. These have been estimated using matched data from the National Pupil Database (NPD) and the HESA Student Record and cover students from English maintained schools who were in receipt of FSM aged 15 and progressed to Higher Education by the age of 19. It is known that not all pupils who are eligible for FSM claim them. Such pupils would be excluded from the figures in Table 2. These rounded estimates allow for a small margin of error that arises as result of the matching procedure deployed.

Currently only three years worth of NPD and HESA data have been matched, so figures prior to 2005/06 are not available.

Table 2: Estimates of the number of FSM pupils aged 15 in English maintained schools who progressed to HE[1] by age 19

Academic year	*FSM pupils in HE*
2005/06	10,760
2006/07	11,405
2007/08	12,550

[1] Includes students who progressed to HE courses at Further Education Colleges.

Note:

All figures are estimates and have been rounded to the nearest five. The figures for FSM pupils are based on those recorded as such on Pupil Level Census. As this is a snapshot of pupils in one year, this will exclude pupils who claimed free school meals in previous years. Also some parents may choose not to apply for FSM. Children from these families who progress to HE institutions would not be included in the table.

Source:

Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record.

Students: Finance

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average amount of interest which will be paid on student loans taken out by students beginning their studies in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [32405]

Mr Willetts: Students beginning their studies in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are all on the current repayment system which means their loans will not increase in real terms but will only go up in line with retail prices index (RPI). All students on the current repayment system make payments of 9% on their income above the threshold of £15,000. Any loan outstanding after 25 years is written off. Loans are also written off due to death or permanent disability.

The actual rate of interest for loans is therefore dependent on the future rate of RPI. But not all students fully repay their loans and overall the Government provide a subsidy which is estimated to be 28% of the total loan outlay.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of graduates he estimates will not complete repayment of their student loan within 30 years following the implementation of his proposed reform of student finance; and if he will make a statement. [32580]

Mr Willetts: Under the proposed reforms of the student finance system, we estimate that between 50% and 60% of full-time students with loans will have some of their loan written off. The reasons for the loan being written off will include death, permanent disability and having an outstanding balance after 30 years.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the resource accounting and budgeting charge in respect of the present system of students loans is for 2010-11; what estimate he has made of the likely charge under his proposals for the reform of student finance through *(a)* the extension of part-time fee loans and *(b)* the annual uprating of the earnings repayment threshold in each year of the Spending Review period; and if he will make a statement. [32581]

Mr Willetts: The resource accounting and budgeting (RAB) charge in respect of the present system of loans for 2010-11 is expected to be 28%.

Taking the extension of part-time fee loans and the annual uprating of the earnings repayment threshold in conjunction with all the other changes being made to the student finance system, we estimate the RAB charge will be around 30% overall. However this will be dependent on the level of fees that higher education institutions end up charging.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his proposals for reform of student finance, including *(a)* the extension of part-time fee loans and *(b)* the annual uprating of the earnings repayment threshold, on the prospects of the future sale of the student loan book; and if he will make a statement. [32582]

Mr Willetts: A range of potential options for monetising the loan book is being looked at; this work will take into account all relevant factors, including the Government's response to Lord Browne's report.

An update on the work undertaken will be set out in Budget 2011.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of funded student places under fee caps of *(a)* £6,000, *(b)* £7,500 and *(c)* £9,000 in each year to 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [32602]

Mr Willetts: We expect overall entrant and student numbers to remain broadly constant over the spending review period, but actual student numbers will depend on the response of students and universities to the new higher education funding package.

Students: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of 19 to 24-year-olds in *(a)* Bexley, *(b)* London and *(c)* England were in full-time education in each of the last three years. [32459]

Mr Hayes: The following table sets out the number and percentage of people aged 19 to 24-years-old in Bexley, London and England who are in full-time education, in each year between 2007 and 2009. Full-time education is taken to mean attending school, a sandwich course, or full-time at university or college.

Number and percentage of people aged 19 to 24 in full-time education with associated 95% confidence intervals (percentage points)

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
England	928,000	988,000	1,022,000
	23%	24%	25%
	+/-1pp (CI)	+/- 1pp (CI)	+/-1pp (CI)
London	189,000	204,000	215,000
	30%	32%	34%
	+/-2pp (CI)	+/-2pp (CI)	+/-2pp (CI)
Bexley	3,000	2,000	4,000
	19%	11%	18%
	+/-11pp (CI)	+/-9pp (CI)	+/-10pp (CI)

This information is from the Annual Population Survey, which covers the period January to December of each year, with 2009 being the most recent estimate available. The Annual Population Survey is the only available source of data with a sample large enough to provide local authority estimates of the number of young people up to the age of 24 who are in full-time education.

It is important to note that estimates for some local authorities are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their confidence intervals, which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a confidence interval of +/- 11 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 11pp above the estimate and 11pp below the estimate.

Trade: India

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the inclusion of data exclusivity clauses in the proposed EU-India free trade area agreement; and what assessment he has made of the effect of such clauses on the production of generic medicines for use by developing and middle-income countries. [32424]

Mr Davey: The UK policy is to take a case-by-case approach to intellectual property rights within free trade agreements between the European Union and developing countries. The level of intellectual property protection should be tailored to the trading partner's level of development, with particular flexibility shown where provisions impact on public health. We would consider any proposals made regarding data exclusivity in the EU-India agreement in the light of the available evidence.

On December 13 both Indian and EU trade negotiators stated that nothing in the EU-India agreement would limit India's scope for developing and exporting life-saving medicines.

CABINET OFFICE

Jobseeker's Allowance: Blaenau Gwent

Nick Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office in how many households in Blaenau Gwent constituency has a jobseeker's allowance claimant been claiming for 12 months or more. [33059]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking in how many households in Blaenau Gwent constituency has a jobseeker's allowance claimant been claiming for 12 months or more. (33059)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics relating to households from the Annual Population Survey (APS) Household dataset. Unfortunately, this dataset does not support this type of analysis for small geographic areas.

As an alternative, we are able to provide the total number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), in receipt of JSA for over 12 months from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

There were 825 people resident in Blaenau Gwent constituency in receipt of JSA for over 12 months in November 2010.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to increase representation from UK Financial Investments Ltd on the boards of banks in receipt of public funding. [33036]

Mr Hoban: The Government's shareholdings in banks are managed on a commercial and arm's length basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI). UKFI are required to do this in a way that is consistent with the Treasury's aim not to be a permanent investor in UK financial institutions—the Government are clear that British banks are best owned and managed commercially.

UKFI believe that Government investee banks need strong boards, and work with the banks to achieve this. The appointments process to the boards of RBS and Lloyds are run by their nominations committee, and UKFI has worked with the banks' boards in line with their framework document remit to strengthen membership through the appointment of suitably qualified, independent non-executives.

Under UK company law, directors cannot represent individual shareholders' interests. Accordingly, while these directors have been appointed with the agreement of UKFI, they are not and cannot be UKFI's representatives and will not report directly to them.

Members: Correspondence

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for East Lothian of 12 October and 8 December 2010 in relation to national insurance contributions for stay-at-home parents who will no longer receive child benefit. [33186]

Mr Gauke: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Tax Avoidance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue would accrue to the Exchequer over each of the next four financial years were *(a)* companies prohibited from using derivatives to reduce their tax liabilities and *(b)* investment companies prevented from changing the currency in which they prepare their accounts. [29828]

Mr Gauke: These measures in aggregate are estimated to increase receipts by around £50 million for each full year that they are effective. The final costings for the package of measures will be subject to scrutiny by the Office for Budget Responsibility and will be set out at the Budget. These measures are intended to prevent the future use of a range of corporation tax avoidance schemes.

Welsh Language

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department last published a Welsh language scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Welsh Language Act 1993; and at which web addresses such schemes can be accessed in *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* English. [31171]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury, along with other Government Departments, is not considered a "public body" under the provisions of the Welsh Language Act (section 21), meaning that it is not required to prepare Welsh language schemes.

The Treasury does produce translated texts on request.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 13 January 2011

CABINET OFFICE

Government Departments: Weather

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what account his Department took of the October 2010 Met Office forecast of a mild winter in preparations across Government for the winter of 2010. [33063]

Mr Maude: The Met Office provide the Government with regular updates throughout the year to inform short, medium and longer term planning. In late October, the Met Office advised that temperatures during November and December were likely to be average or colder. This information was shared with Departments as part of a wider review of winter preparedness.

Public Sector: Sick Leave

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance his Department has provided to Government Departments on the use of absence management programmes to reduce the rates of sickness absence among staff. [33093]

Mr Maude: The Civil Service Management Code gives Departments and agencies the delegated authority to ensure that sickness absence is managed effectively.

The Cabinet Office has published a cross-civil service health and well-being framework that covers these issues. This is available to all Departments via the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/improving/health/resources.aspx

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Sky Broadcasting

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will publish the report by Ofcom on BSkyB and media plurality; and if he will make a statement. [33373]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: In making my decision about News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB, I will take as much time as necessary to carefully consider all the relevant information so that I am able to come to a fully considered decision. Our internal Government guidance suggests 10 working days, but this is guidance rather than a requirement. In view of the commercial sensitivity of the process and the need to preserve legitimate confidentiality, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on every stage of the process. I will publish Ofcom's report with commercially sensitive information redacted. I have not taken a final decision about when to publish, but I have a duty to publish the report before or at the time of the announcement of my decision.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether he plans to announce his decision on whether to refer News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB to the Competition Commission within the timescale outlined in Government guidance for such referrals; [33537]

(2) whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department plan to meet senior executives from News Corporation prior to his decision on whether to refer News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB to the Competition Commission; [33538]

(3) whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department plan to meet representatives of media organisations opposed to News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB prior to his decision on whether to refer the proposed acquisition to the Competition Commission; [33539]

(4) whether he plans to publish in full Ofcom's report to him on the public interest considerations raised by News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB *(a)* at the same time as, *(b)* in advance of or *(c)* after the announcement of his decision on referral of the proposed acquisition to the Competition Commission. [33540]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: In making my decision about News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB, I will take as much time as necessary to carefully consider all the relevant information so that I am able to come to a fully considered decision. Our internal Government guidance suggests 10 working days, but this is guidance rather than a requirement. In view of the commercial sensitivity of the process and the need to preserve legitimate confidentiality, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on every stage of the process. I will publish Ofcom's report with commercially sensitive information redacted. I have not taken a final decision about when to publish, but I have a duty to publish the report before or at the time of the announcement of my decision.

Departmental Marketing

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on advertising, marketing and publicity since May 2010; and under what budget headings these costs were incurred. [32272]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Department spent £114,007.10 on advertising, marketing and publicity in the period May 2010 to the end of November 2010. The costs were incurred against its Publicity, Government Olympic Executive and News and Digital budget headings.

Publicity expenditure on these areas since May 2010 is £33,691.10 and was primarily spent on statutory publications including the Change Management Plan, DCMS Resource Accounts and the DCMS Annual Report. This also includes events such as the DCMS all staff meeting.

Government Olympic Executive expenditure on these areas is £42,689 and was spent mainly on publications and a digital strategy.

News and Digital expenditure on these areas is £37,637 with the majority of that being spent on updating the DCMS website.

HMS Victory 1744

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to respond to his Department's consultation on HMS Victory 1744: Options for the Management of the Wreck Site. [33377]

John Penrose: The public consultation on the future management of the wreck site of HMS Victory was a joint consultation by this Department with the Ministry of Defence, published by the previous Government. A joint response is intended to be published in the spring.

Tourism: North East England

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that the tourist industry in the North East is not adversely affected by reductions in Government funding for the industry. [33718]

John Penrose: The Government are creating a new international marketing fund for tourism. We are looking to create a fund of more than £100 million, with major companies already pledging support to help match the £50 million of public money the Government have committed through VisitBritain over the next four years.

We are also investing nearly £33 million in VisitEngland over four years which will focus on promoting the domestic tourism industry and supporting destination management organisations, local authorities and emerging local enterprise partnerships. Tourism in the North East will benefit from both funding initiatives and further details will be included in the new strategy for tourism which will be published shortly

In addition, the £1.4 billion regional growth fund (RGF) presents an important opportunity for tourism. We have worked to ensure that the RGF is available for tourism-related bids, and Ministers have encouraged the tourism sector to apply.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy: Housing

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate has been made of the energy saving likely to arise from retrofitting existing housing stock with energy efficiency measures. [33154]

Gregory Barker: The most recent illustration of the likely energy savings generated as a result of retrofitting existing housing stock with energy efficiency measures can be found in the Green Deal impact assessment (IA), published alongside the Energy Bill on 8 December 2010

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/legislation/energy_bill/energy_bill.aspx

This development stage IA presents two illustrative scenarios for the installation of energy efficiency measures into the existing housing stock between 2013 and 2020 resulting from possible future secondary legislation. Detailed assumptions related to the energy saving per measure are presented in the annexes to the IA. These assumptions are applied to the illustrative scenarios to calculate the total energy savings generated over the lifetime of the measures installed. The two scenarios assume different levels of consumer take up of a variety of cost-effective insulation measures.

The range of total energy savings estimated in the two illustrative scenarios in the Green Deal IA is 64,000 to 87,000 TWH a year from 2020, over the lifetime of all the installed measures. The results do not represent the total amount of energy saving that would result from the retrofitting of the entire housing stock.

Energy: Prices

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable he has set for the amendment of the Feed-in Tariffs (Specified Maximum Capacity and Functions) Order 2010 to provide support for large-scale, ground-mounted solar photovoltaic panels. [33120]

Charles Hendry: Following the spending review announcement last October, and our concerns about proposed large industrial-scale green field solar farms distorting the available funding for roof top and other innovative solar technologies, my officials have been monitoring and evaluating the situation. We stand ready to take measures to limit access of schemes to FITs if necessary.

Fuel: Poverty

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an estimate of the potential effect on the number of people in fuel poverty of an increase in the level of energy generated from renewable sources. [33157]

Gregory Barker: There have been no recent estimates made about the effect that the increase in the level of energy generated from renewable sources will have on the number of people in fuel poverty.

Government are mindful of the need to strike a balance between increasing costs on customer bills and enabling progress in tackling fuel poverty.

Green Deal

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the likely effects on the rental property market of property loans made under the proposed Green Deal. [33160]

Gregory Barker: From late 2012, the Green Deal will offer a range of innovative finance packages allowing landlords to install insulation and energy efficiency measures in their rental properties at no upfront cost to themselves. This should be an attractive option for the rental property market and encourage investment in the sector.

The key test will be uptake in the first year of implementation. We therefore intend to assess the effects on the rental property market in the real world setting after implementation.

Offshore Industry: Renewable Energy

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding mechanisms are in place to encourage investment in the offshore renewable energy sector on the East Anglian coast. [33153]

Charles Hendry: The renewables obligation is currently the Government's main financial incentive for renewable electricity. It places a requirement on energy suppliers to source a specified and annually increasing proportion of their sales from renewable sources or pay a penalty. Offshore wind and marine technology generators in England and Wales currently receive two renewable obligation certificates for every megawatt hour of electricity that they generate. The renewables obligation has been successful in more than tripling the level of renewable electricity in the UK from 1.8% in 2002 to 6.6% in 2009.

DECC has also provided technology support through the low carbon energy demonstration capital grants scheme, which is not currently open to new proposals. The scheme aims to bring forward the demonstration of new components or technology to support the deployment of large-scale offshore wind turbines around the UK within 2020 time scales. In the course of three calls for proposals under the scheme, support was offered to 16 projects, worth a total of over £25 million.

Future innovation support programmes for low carbon technologies, including offshore wind, are being considered with decisions expect in the spring.

Wind Power: Offshore Industry

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an estimate of the net effect on the number of jobs consequent on the planned expansion to offshore wind farms on the East Anglian coast *(a)* in the next 10 years and *(b)* in total. [33155]

Charles Hendry: No estimate has been made of the employment impact specifically caused by offshore wind farm expansion on the East Anglian coast.

The Carbon Trust have estimated, in their report "Focus for success—A new approach to commercialising low carbon technologies", that there will be up to 70,000 UK jobs in the offshore wind sector by 2020, made up of 50,000 direct jobs, and 20,000 secondary jobs (in areas such as legal services and finance).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Common Fisheries Policy

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the effects of the operation of the common fisheries policy on the conservation of fish stocks in British waters. [32957]

Richard Benyon: The common fisheries policy (CFP) is not sufficiently conserving fish stocks. Though it is showing some improvement, in 2009 48% of fish stocks of most interest to the UK with a known stocks status were outside safe biological limits. CFP reform is a crucial opportunity to address this failing and move towards sustainable fisheries. It will take radical reform and we are pressing for the CFP to simplify and decentralise fisheries management, giving fishermen greater incentives to fish sustainably.

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to invite stakeholders to contribute to the review of the common fisheries policy in 2012. [32958]

Richard Benyon: As the Minister for fisheries, I have had discussions with a range of organisations and people, including EU institutions and MEPs, about common fisheries policy (CFP) reform, and will continue to seek contributions in advance of publication of the EU Commission's proposals for reform in early summer. This will include contributions from representatives of the fishing industry, both large-scale and under-10 metre fleets, non-governmental organisations and major processors and retailers, to help make the strongest possible case for radical reform of the CFP.

Fisheries

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her most recent estimate is of the financial effects of the practice of discard on fishermen in each region in each year since 1997-98. [32956]

Richard Benyon: The total discard estimate in 2009 (the latest period for which figures are available for those fisheries sampled in the UK) is 51,179 tonnes. There are many reasons explaining these discards; however, the current system for recording catch and discard data does not allow us to differentiate (year on year) why each fish is discarded. Despite this, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science analysis, conducted in 2010 on the 2008 English and Welsh discard data, estimated that:

54% (13,230 tonnes) of total discards were discarded for reasons relating to weak/absent markets (i.e. non-quota species);

quota constraints were estimated to account for 22% (5,390 tonnes) of discards (i.e. quota species above the legal minimum landing size);

24% (5,880 tonnes) of total discards were quota species below the legal minimum landing size (MLS) and were too small to land.

High grading is another type of discarding where fishermen try to optimise the value of their catches by keeping the good value fish and discarding the poorer value ones. This creates a financial profit for fishermen but is still a waste of legally landable fish. A European high grading ban is in place in waters around the UK to prevent this behaviour. The extent of high grading has not been successfully separated from estimates for other types of discarding. Other types of discarding, such as unmarketable species, over-quota and under-MLS may represent a loss of value to the fishermen and from the fishery.

Because discard estimates 1997-2010 have not undergone the same analysis as 2008 data, estimates of the financial impacts of discards for the British fleet as a whole are unreliable. To simply use the average market value of all fish species as a multiplier would give an inaccurate estimate of the financial impact of discards. We do, however, have a more robust study under way looking at the economic impact of discarding fish.

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment her Department has made of the likely effects of distributing under-10 metre fishing quota more evenly between long-liners and trawlers operating off the East Anglian coast; [32959]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the effects on skippers of the under-10 metre fishing fleet of the ownership of quotas by non-fishermen; [32960]

(3) for what reasons non-fishermen are permitted to own quota for the under-10 metre fishing fleet on the East Coast; [32961]

(4) what recent estimate has been made of the level of sustainability of the under-10 metre fishing fleet of long-liners and trawlers. [33150]

Richard Benyon: No specific assessment has been made of the effects of redistribution of quota, or the holding of quota, by non-fishermen on the long-liners of the East Anglian coast.

Currently, fishermen and non-fishermen can hold fixed quota allocation units (FQAs), but do not have property rights over FQAs. None-the-less, they are afforded a substantial degree of protection and certainty through the development and operation of the UK's quota management rules, and my assurance that significant changes will not be made to existing arrangements without full, and proper, consultation. Under current arrangements, there are no restrictions on who may hold FQA units, which reflects historic practice.

The Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries (SAIF) project has been developing proposals for reform of fisheries management in England in order to put the fishing fleet on a more sustainable footing. As part of this work, a wide range of research projects were completed to better understand the social, environmental and economic benefits of the under-10m fleet in particular. The work is also looking at the issue of quota distribution. We are aiming to launch a full public consultation on proposals in spring 2011, and the associated impact assessment will set out the potential impacts of different policy options on the English fleet.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on total allowable catches and quotas for deep-sea species. [32965]

Richard Benyon: The Government recognise the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of these species, by continuing to reduce fishing pressure on them in accordance with scientific advice. Their typical biological characteristics mean most relevant species are thought to be more vulnerable to over-exploitation, and therefore a precautionary approach should be taken. Ministers reached political agreement on appropriate fishing opportunities for certain stocks for 2011 and 2012 (at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting on 29 November 2010) reflecting this.

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the merits of setting a maximum number of hours at sea as a means of maintaining fish stocks and controlling fishing. [33151]

Richard Benyon: Some fishing vessels and gear types are currently subject to limitations on fishing effort. These effort limitations are a component of management plans intended to contribute to the recovery of some vulnerable stocks. Effort limits are used to help control fishing as if there is less fishing effort there is also less fishing mortality.

There has not yet been any formal assessment of the effectiveness of the existing effort management schemes in achieving the objectives of the management plans. However, at the recent December Fisheries Council the Government secured a commitment from the European Commission to a full and detailed review of the long-term management plan for cod in 2011, in particular the restrictions that apply to fishing effort. The European Commission also recently requested its Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries to look at the relationship between fishing effort and fishing mortality for stocks subject to effort management. The results from this analysis have not yet been published but should become available in due course.

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effect of the current quota system on young fish stocks. [33152]

Richard Benyon: EU technical conservation measures set a minimum landing size (MLS) for many commercial fish stocks to protect juvenile fish from being targeted, ensuring they cannot be landed and sold. However, small fish of quota species can still be caught while fishermen are targeting other species; such fish are discarded.

We estimate that around 24% of discards (England and Wales—2008) are quota species below the legal MLS. To reduce the number of discarded fish scientists work with UK fishermen to improve the selectivity of fishing gears so that less juvenile fish are caught. The Government's fully documented catch quota trials are also a promising way of reducing discards in UK fisheries.

Mercury

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will bring forward proposals for a review of mercury abatement legislation; [33464]

(2) what recent estimate she has made of the cost to industry of compliance with the provisions of mercury abatement legislation; [33465]

(3) if she will bring forward proposals to introduce a moratorium on the requirement for any further crematoria to comply with the provisions of mercury abatement legislation; [33466]

(4) if she will estimate the total amount of mercury abated since the provisions of mercury abatement legislation came into force. [33467]

Richard Benyon: Policy on reducing mercury emissions from crematoria is kept under regular review. Mercury abatement for 50% of cremations is a proportionate response to tackling a pollutant that has significant health effects—as a neurotoxicant—with the biggest effect on the foetus, newborns and children—as well as damaging ecosystems including fish-eating birds and mammals, Arctic ecosystems, and wetlands.

The improvements are being delivered by the industry through an innovative burden-sharing scheme. The sector currently advises an increase in the fee per cremation of £45 to cover costs. This compares with 2010 data from AXA that the average cost of a funeral by burial is £2,857, and around £800 less expensive by cremation.

209,000 cremations will need to be subject to abatement. As at November 2010, 75,000 cremations were abated, with expenditure committed or works under way for a further 109,000.

Salmon: Fish Farming

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on farmed salmon. [33385]

Richard Benyon: The UK Government recognise that aquaculture has an important part to play in meeting the needs of European consumers for a sustainable supply of fish and seafood. The Government's policy is to encourage the development of efficient, competitive and sustainable aquaculture industries, while protecting the health status and conservation of UK farmed and wild migratory and freshwater fish, and shellfish.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the benefit to the economy from the farmed salmon industry; and what estimate she has made of the number of jobs associated with that industry in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK. [33452]

Richard Benyon: Salmon farming in Scotland supported 1,212 direct jobs in production, and an additional 3,733 full-time, part-time and seasonal jobs in processing in 2008. The Scottish salmon farming industry had a farm gate value of £335.7 million in 2008.

There is no farming of adult salmon (post smolt) in England and Wales, but a small number of freshwater farms rear smolts for on-growing in Scottish farms and for wild salmon population enhancement. In 2008, Atlantic salmon production in England and Wales comprised some 4 million smolts, with a value of around £1 million.

In Northern Ireland, the total aquaculture production in 2008 had first sale value of £9.618 million, with £0.469 million of this being for salmon. The aquaculture sector employed 91 full-time and 56 part-time employees, of which 60 were employed in the fin fish sector.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* stakeholders and *(b)* the Scottish Government on her policy on farmed salmon. [33453]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA officials meet regularly with representatives from the Scottish, Northern Irish and Welsh Governments, and stakeholder organisations, to discuss key issues facing the aquaculture sector. Most recently, the UK Aquaculture Forum, which brings together a range of interested bodies including Government representatives, industry and non-governmental organisations, met on 7 October 2010 and discussed a range of issues relating to aquaculture practices, including salmon farming.

In addition, DEFRA officials and those from the devolved Governments, as well as stakeholders and industry representatives, participated in the open session on aquaculture at the 27th Annual Meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization on 1 to 4 June 2010.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect on the environment in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK of practices involved in the farming of salmon. [33454]

Richard Benyon: In 2010, the UK Government, including the devolved Administrations, submitted reports to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation on their management of aquaculture, introductions and transfers, and transgenics for international peer review. The principal environmental concerns that have been identified with salmon farming are transmission of diseases and parasites, particularly sea lice, from reared to wild fish; interbreeding of escaped reared salmon with wild fish in local rivers; and the effects of nutrients and other contaminants on the environment around the farm sites. While these factors remain a concern in Scotland and the UK, there have been considerable developments by the industry to mitigate the effects of its activities.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects on the marine environment of the practice of discard in each region in each year since 1997-98. [32955]

Richard Benyon: The ecological impacts of discarding on the ecosystem include the direct effects of discard mortality on fish stocks and the effects of population growth in species that utilise these discards.

The direct ecological effects of discard mortality are inextricably linked to overall fishing mortality. In the North Sea, excessive fishing mortality has been shown to:

reduce potential yield from the stocks;

reduce species diversity;

change predator-prey interactions;

change the relative abundance of species.

Several seabed dwelling species utilise discards. However, evidence for expansion of these populations, as a response to discards, is weak. In general, the full impacts of discarding on marine communities are not well understood, and neither are the consequences of reducing the amount of discarded material. However, it is recognised that removing non-marketable marine organisms from the ecosystem will reduce its health, and is therefore not consistent with good ecosystem management.

A wide range of scavengers, including seabirds and fishes, are also known to feed on discards. In the North Sea, discarding is estimated to account for up to 10% of the overall annual food consumption of scavengers.

This level of contribution is probably sufficient to allow larger populations of these scavenging species to exist than would otherwise be possible. For instance, seabirds are estimated to consume 50% of discarded material; enough to potentially support over 6 million birds.

Tuna: Conservation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the use of skipjack tuna in the food supply and retail industry. [33347]

Richard Benyon: The UK, through the EU, is a member of a number of UN regional fisheries management bodies, including the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. These bodies set specific conservation and management measures, based on scientific advice, aimed at ensuring the sustainable management of tuna stocks. The UK Government continue to use their influence in such forums to press for the use of sustainable fishing methods in order to ensure the long-term future of these stocks.

Current scientific advice on the status of skipjack tuna stocks means that it has not been necessary to impose any specific management measures on these fisheries.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Females

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the issue of rights of women and girls in Afghanistan was discussed at the NATO summit in Lisbon in November 2010. [33331]

Alistair Burt: The declaration of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit in Lisbon, in November 2010 stressed

> "the importance of Afghanistan standing by its Constitutional and international obligations on human rights, particularly regarding the rights of women, and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security."

The UK will continue to work to improve the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan.

On my recent visit to Afghanistan I had a meeting with women's rights organisations in Kabul, to express our support for their ongoing engagement with the Afghan Government.

Diplomatic Service: Domestic Service

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what rights diplomatic representatives accredited to the UK have to employ in the UK domestic workers entitled to work in their home countries. [33319]

Mr Bellingham: In accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961, foreign diplomats accredited in the UK are entitled to employ domestic workers (foreign or British). Under Article 41 (1) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations it is the duty of all diplomats

> 'to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State'.

This applies to the terms and conditions of employment for all domestic staff.

North Korea: Politics and Government

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the succession to the leadership of North Korea by Kim Jong-un. [33406]

Mr Jeremy Browne: It appears that the succession process has begun. We hope that North Korea's leadership will recognise that engagement with the international community is better than isolation and we urge them to make verifiable progress on denuclearisation so that talks between the relevant parties can resume.

Sudan: Referendums

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports on the arrangements made for the conduct of the referendum on the independence of southern Sudan. [33358]

Mr Bellingham: Arrangements for the referendum on self determination for Southern Sudan have been robust and well led by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission. Voter registration went smoothly and voting, which started on 9 January, has so far been peaceful. The UK contributed over £11 million to support the referendum process.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations he made to his Sudanese counterpart on the registration of voters prior to the referendum on independence in that country on 9 January 2011; [33410]

(2) what recent representations he has made to his Sudanese counterpart on the payment of oil revenues to southern Sudan; [33411]

(3) what representations he made to his Sudanese counterpart to ensure that the referendum on independence for southern Sudan took place as planned on 9 January 2011. [33412]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is in regular contact with Sudan partners. He spoke to the President of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir, on 9 January 2011, and Sudanese Vice President, Ali Osman Taha, on 13 December 2010. He welcomed the progress with the Southern Sudan Referendum with registration complete and polling currently under way. He has also emphasised the importance of the Sudanese parties resolving outstanding issues as quickly as possible, including oil revenues.

UN Agencies: Finance

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department provided to the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs in each of the last five years. [33310]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office pays the UK share (6.604%) of the UN regular budget which is agreed biennially. The elements paid by the UK from the UN regular budget to the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs are as follows:

	US$
2006-07	1,760,000
2008-09	1,970,000
2010-11	1,940,400

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department provided to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in each of the last five years. [33315]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) pays the UK share (currently 6.604%) of the UN regular budget which is negotiated biennially. The elements paid by the UK from the UN regular budget to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) biennially are as follows:

	US$
2006-07	4,521,000
2008-09	5,280,000
2010-11	5,525,000

The FCO made other payments to UNHCR for project work as follows:

	£
2006	258,678.67
2007	24,689.17
2008	99,695.66
2009	85,320.95
2010	71,940.78

UN Women

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department made representations at UN level on the proposed composition of the executive board of UN Women. [33329]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK was actively involved in General Assembly negotiations which established the size and composition of UN Women's Executive Board.

Elections to the board took place in the UN's Economic and Social Council in November last year. 35 member states drawn from five regional groups were elected to serve on the board, with six others appointed on the basis of their voluntary contributions and their role as emerging donors. The UK will sit on the board for the next five years.

As board members were elected by member states within their regional groups, no representations were made at UN level on the membership of the executive board. The UK encouraged regional groups to put forward a wide range of candidates for election.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Housing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which local authorities provide homes to people seeking asylum in the UK under contracts with the UK Border Agency; and how many homes each such local authority has provided under such contracts in each of the last five years; [33483]

(2) how many homes were provided to people seeking asylum in the UK in each local authority area, for each type of tenancy in each of the last five years. [33484]

Damian Green: Provision of accommodation for eligible asylum seekers is procured through contracts placed with a mixture of private and public sector providers. The UK Border Agency has in some cases contracts with individual local authorities but most of the provision is with consortiums made up of a number of local authorities operating within a specific region of the UK. The following local authorities and consortiums were all contracted to provide accommodation in each of the last five years:

Glasgow city council
Liverpool city council
Cardiff city council
Swansea city council
Yorkshire and Humberside consortium
North East consortium
North West consortium
West Midlands consortium.

The UK Border Agency does not hold the information requested in respect of the number of homes each local authority has provided in each of the last five years. Each contract stipulates a minimum and maximum number of asylum seekers each local authority/consortium is required to accommodate. The UK Border Agency refers individuals to the contractor whose responsibility it is to provide accommodation and related services whilst the service users remain eligible for asylum support. Accommodation providers are required not to make a specific number of homes available but to ensure they can provide suitable accommodation for asylum seekers up to the maximum figure contained within their contract. Payment is made on a per person per night basis and no tenancy agreement is formed.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to provide housing to people seeking asylum in the UK who are at risk of losing their current homes following the decision by some city councils not to renew their contracts with the UK Border Agency from June 2011 to house people seeking asylum; and if she will make a statement. [33485]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is obliged under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2006 to provide accommodation for eligible asylum seekers. The current suite of accommodation contracts expire in 2011 and a recent exercise to reduce the number of contractors in line with the reduction of asylum applications in recent years has meant a number of private sector and local authority/consortium contracts will naturally expire during 2011.

The agency is working with both existing and remaining providers to ensure that all asylum seekers continue to have their accommodation needs met. The UK Border Agency is committed to working with providers to identify solutions that will minimise any disruption to asylum seekers who may be affected. We have sought commitments from providers that they will look to minimise the number of relocations, particularly for families where there are children at school.

This may result in a contractual novation of properties allowing asylum seekers to remain in their current accommodation but this can not be guaranteed in all cases. When it is necessary for asylum seekers to move to alternative accommodation provided by a new provider we aim to provide suitable notice and will take into account special requirements to ensure minimum disruption.

Human Trafficking: Arrests

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested for offences related to human trafficking in each year since 2007. [33215]

Damian Green: The following figures are based on data taken from the Police National Computer and represent arrests for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2010; they relate to arrests under Sections 57, 58 and 59 of the Sexual Offences Act (SOA) 2003, and under Section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration Act (AIA) 2004.

	SOA	*AIA*	*Total*
2007	97	27	124
2008	119	77	196
2009	117	99	216
2010	109	91	200

Sexual Offences: Advisory Services

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many independent sexual violence advisers there were in each region in each year since 2005. [33147]

Lynne Featherstone: Independent sexual violence advisers (ISVAs) work with victims of recent and historic serious sexual crimes to enable them to access the services they need in the aftermath of the abuse they have experienced. They provide independent support and advocacy throughout and beyond the criminal justice process.

The information requested is not collected centrally as funding for ISVA posts can come from a range of local and national sources.

A sub-set of ISVA posts has been partially funded by the Home Office since 2006-07. Details of these posts are as follows:

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
North-west	6	6	8	7	4
North-east	2	2	2	3	3
East of England	1	1	1	2	2
West midlands	6	6	7	7	10
South-east	1	1	2	2	5
East midlands	2	2	2	4	3
South-west	2	2	3	4	5
London	6	6	5	6	6
Yorkshire and Humber	5	5	4	6	6
Wales	3	3	3	2	0
Total	34	34	37	43	44

Further funding for ISVAs for the period 2011-12 to 2014-15 was announced in November 2010.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Heating

Mr Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, (1) how many offices in Norman Shaw North were heated for all or part of the Christmas adjournment in 2010-11; what the cost was of such heating; and if he will make a statement; [33428]

(2) what steps were taken to ensure the level of heating was reduced in offices on the Commons estate during the Christmas adjournment of 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [33429]

John Thurso: The heating controls in each unoccupied individual office in Norman Shaw North were turned to the minimum setting when attendants completed their duties on 24 December 2010. It is not possible to determine the cost of heating during the adjournment. Similar arrangements were in place across the Commons estate.

Mr Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much was spent on heating for the House of Commons estate in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [33459]

John Thurso: The cost of heating the House of Commons estate cannot be identified separately as charges for gas and electricity also include such items as lighting, hot water and catering.

SCOTLAND

Prison Service

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Prison Service on the Government's plans to extend the franchise to prisoners serving sentences of up to four years. [33360]

David Mundell: The Government set out their position on the voting rights of prisoners in a statement to Parliament on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 150-51WS. The Government will be working closely with the Scottish Government and others before legislation is introduced on the practical implications of the approach.

Sexual Offences: Victims

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what representations he has received from groups representing the victims of sexual offences or violent crime in Scotland on the Government's plans to extend the franchise in parliamentary elections to those serving prison sentences of up to four years. [33359]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has received no such representations The Government have brought these proposals forward as a result of a court ruling which they are obliged to implement. This is not a choice, it is a legal obligation, and we are ensuring that the most serious offenders will continue to be barred from voting.

JUSTICE

Assisted Prison Visit's Unit

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to his Department was of the Assisted Prison Visits Unit in the latest period for which figures are available; how much of this expenditure was incurred on visits including subsistence to each prison; and how many such visits there were. [33090]

Mr Blunt: The total cost of the Assisted Prison Visits Unit in the financial year 2009-10 was £3,016,556. Of this, £2,343,132 (78%) was spent on visits including subsistence. 80,001 applications were made for assistance for visits to prisons in England and Wales in 2009-10 with 73,091 being paid. Visits' applications are recorded against which prison a visitor wished to visit, but costs are not allocated against individual prisons, and are shown in the following table.

The Assisted Prison Visits Unit comprises the Assisted Prison Visits Scheme (APVS), the National Offender Management Service Prisoner Location Service (PLS) and the NOMS Victim Helpline (VH).

Application for Assisted Prison Visits 2009-10 to English and Welsh prisons—total 79,835 by prison

Prison	*Applications*
Whatton	1,917
Channings Wood	1,704
Acklington	1,699
Wymott	1,683
Frankland	1,326
Gartree	1,301
Moorland	1,289
Lowdham Grange	1,224
Littlehey	1,182
Hewell	1,156
Swaleside	1,152
Wakefield	1,124
Maidstone	1,114
Wayland	1,101
Long Lartin	1,060
Stafford	1,050
Leyhill	1,046
Risley	1,031
Haverigg	1,028
Everthorpe	1,016
Hull	1,011
Dovegate	1,010
Full Sutton	980
Parc	978
Lindholme	961
Highpoint	955
Swinfen Hall	945
Dartmoor	927
Rye Hill	899
Ranby	887
Garth	886
Kirkham	885
Altcourse	880
The Mount	865
Peterborough	851
Wellingborough	840
Stocken	833
Standford Hill	827
Ashfield	808
Whitemoor	807
Bullingdon	796
Deerbolt	793
Sudbury	787
Albany	743
Glen Parva	711
Usk and Prescoed	708
Rochester	703
Guys Marsh	701
Hollesley Bay	696
Elmley	673
Wolds	662
Woodhill	661
Stoke Heath	659
Camp Hill	647
Portland	639
Wandsworth	610
Aylesbury	594
Erlestoke House	587
Wealstun	581
Durham	575
Downview	553
Featherstone	543
North Sea Camp	520
Blundeston	510
Castington	503
Spring Hill	501
Lancaster Farms	487
Doncaster	445
Holme House	431
Highdown	431
Drake Hall	428
Parkhurst	416

Application for Assisted Prison Visits 2009-10 to English and Welsh prisons—total 79,835 by prison

Prison	Applications
Send	389
Winchester	383
Buckley Hall	377
The Verne	376
Brinsford	368
Norwich	356
Grendon	354
Huntercombe	338
Northallerton	338
Lincoln	331
Chelmsford	330
Styal	329
Kingston	321
Ashwell	310
Bure	294
Liverpool	293
Edmunds Hill	291
Wetherby	290
Belmarsh	289
Thorn Cross	287
Foston Hall	286
Exeter	285
Warren Hill	283
Kirklevington	282
Birmingham	276
Bristol	271
Shepton Mallet	268
Lancaster	267
Bedford	248
New Hall	243
Forest Bank	240
Askham Grange	239
Holloway	233
Feltham	226
Leeds	224
Manchester	222
Gloucester	217
Hindley	212
Bronzefield	208
Kennet	207
Moorland Open	200
Bullwood Hall	181
Eastwood Park	179
Morton Hall	176
Lewes	175
Cardiff	170
Preston	169
Blantyre House	133
Cookham Wood	132
Swansea	121
Canterbury	116
Reading	112
Leicester	101
Werrington	95
Nottingham	93
Dorchester	83
East Sutton Park	81
Onley	769
Coldingley	769
Ford	766
Low Newton	304
Wormwood Scrubs	300
Shrewsbury	295
Brixton	79
Pentonville	64
Latchmere House	59

Prisons: Sentencing

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving a sentence of under four years had previously served a prison sentence. [33002]

Mr Blunt: 20,037 of the 30,786 offenders serving an immediate custodial sentence of less than four years in prison establishments at 30 June 2009 had previously served a custodial sentence. These figures are a further breakdown of table 7.32 in 'Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009' which was published on 22 July 2010.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners currently serving a sentence of under four years are serving concurrent sentences which, if served consecutively, would result in a prison term of four years or longer. [33003]

Mr Blunt: From the most recent available data, September 2010, the number of prisoners serving sentences of less than four years is 28,770.

The Ministry of Justice Inmate Information System (IIS) holds information on the prison population under sentence for criminal offences in England and Wales. However, the IIS does not identify concurrent sentences for each prisoner. This detailed information may be held by the courts on individual case files and could be provided only through manual checking of all records at disproportionate cost.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Appeals

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answers of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1149-1152W, on Appeals, and of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 500-501W, on legal costs, how many appeal cases were heard *(a)* with and *(b)* without legal representation in each category in each of the last three years; and in what proportion of cases (i) with and (ii) without legal representation the original ruling was upheld. [33076]

Mr Djanogly: The following tables provide the information requested.

	Number of appeals heard with representation			*Percentage of those cases where original decision upheld, i.e. case did not succeed*			*How many appeals heard with no representation*			*Percentage of those cases where original decision upheld, i.e case did not succeed*		
PQs	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
214: COEG	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	100	100	100
236: Bereavement benefit	80	110	95	74	71	82	228	287	280	89	93	94
237: Carer's allowance	285	180	160	62	66	65	845	513	602	86	88	90
238: Child support[1]	535	532	551	43	47	44	2,563	2,698	2,612	53	54	56
239: Discrimination on grounds of religion and belief[2]	36	49	63	90	78	57	100	130	120	92	92	99
240: Discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation[3]	43	33	40	55	82	55	57	92	70	78	90	86
241: Age discrimination	120	150	190	68	85	75	180	300	370	86	87	83
246: Child benefit lone parent allowances	163	155	165	77	72	75	673	759	901	87	89	91
247: Tax credit[4]	93	132	131	74	63	64	420	564	742	92	88	87
248: Compensation Recovery Unit	136	112	107	43	46	50	142	111	118	39	59	58
249(a): Housing Benefit[5]	1,230	1,070	1,255	56	56	62	1,982	1,830	2,518	76	79	81
249(b): Council tax benefit	182	182	170	61	63	68	650	577	723	78	79	83
250(a): Pensions credit	442	384	374	52	57	61	558	500	611	73	80	84
250(b): Health in pregnancy grant	0	0	9	0	0	78	0	0	223	0	0	96
250(c): Incapacity benefit	25,513	27,031	20,265	33	33	33	31,797	35,897	26,936	61	62	60
250(d): Employment support allowance	0	0	16,388	0	0	41	0	27	34,403	0	96	72
250(e): Disability working allowance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	100
251: Income support	5,142	4,739	4,261	49	51	53	7,688	7,428	7,533	75	76	79
252: Industrial death benefit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
253: Attendance and disability living allowances	35,862	32,781	30,540	44	46	48	25,320	23,881	24,020	66	69	69
254: Vaccine damage	5	5	1	80	100	0	5	2	2	80	100	100
255: Social Fund—funeral and maternity	506	584	634	74	70	75	1,803	2,219	2,716	89	90	90
256: Severe disablement benefit and allowances	61	44	48	44	48	48	46	41	51	72	56	61
257: Retirement pension	86	77	123	27	74	89	364	338	485	92	93	95
258: Maternity benefits and allowances	8	15	24	88	80	63	50	81	125	94	91	89
259: Jobseeker's allowance	1,274	1,466	2,007	56	57	59	6,237	7,780	15,527	75	78	85

	Number of appeals heard with representation			*Percentage of those cases where original decision upheld, i.e. case did not succeed*			*How many appeals heard with no representation*			*Percentage of those cases where original decision upheld, i.e. case did not succeed*		
PQs	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
260: Industrial injuries disablement benefit	2,492	2,005	1,707	49	50	48	3,554	3,261	3,163	65	66	66
261: Home responsibilities protection	3	1	4	100	0	100	10	10	10	80	100	90

	Tribunal Service Immigration and Asylum (TSIA) appeals not recorded as "publicly funded"			*Percentage of those cases where original decision upheld, i.e. case did not succeed*			*TSIA appeals recorded as "publicly funded"*			*Percentage of those cases where original decision upheld, i.e. case did not succeed*		
PQs	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
242: Managed migration[6]	18,552	17,506	30,628	66	57	48	924	1,300	1,522	57	54	40
243: Asylum[4]	8,458	5,972	9,432	80	81	75	4,491	4,391	6,442	67	65	63
244: Entry clearance[4]	56,864	72,993	71,314	68	64	64	195	240	458	48	47	35
245:Family visit visas[4]	55,774	55,806	60,187	61	56	56	51	34	93	45	38	47

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[1] Includes assessments, referrals, departures and reform cases.

[2] The figures are based on the published figures factored according to the percentages provided by COIT in December 2010.

[3] Unrepresented is taken to mean non-legally represented and includes the categories: Blank (no rep), Other, Private individual, CAB and FRU.

[4] includes child, disabled person, working family and working tax credit cases.

[5] Housing benefit only—excludes housing/council tax combined.

[6] Information on whether the appeal is publicly funded is provided by the appellant at the time they submit their appeal. These data may therefore be incomplete, either because the appellant has not advised that the appeal is publicly funded, the information has not been recorded on the database, or legal aid was granted after the appeal is submitted. It is also possible that some cases could be incorrectly identified as publicly funded, for example, where entitlement to legal aid changes after the appeal is submitted. TSIA ceased recording Publicly Funded data for ECO and FVV in February 2010 and for Asylum and MM in May 2010.

Notes:

1. Following numbering of original PQs 214, 236-238, 246-261, we are able to provide details of whether or not appellants had representation and if they were successful (or not) in their appeal. However, information on whether or not there was legal representation, or legal representation funded by legal aid is not available.
2. Following numbering of original PQs 239-241, information is available for legal representation only and there are no details of the number of appeal cases heard that had legal representation funded by legal aid.
3. Following numbering of original PQs 242-245, we are able to provide details of appeal cases heard but not on whether or not the appellant has representation (legal otherwise). Details of the number of publicly funded appeals (legal aid cases) and their success, although available may not be complete nor accurate. We do not hold any data on which cases that were not "publicly funded" were represented.

Information on whether the appeal is publicly funded is provided by the appellant at the time they submit their appeal. These data may therefore be incomplete, either because the appellant has not advised that the appeal is publicly funded, the information has not been recorded on the database, or legal aid was granted after the appeal is submitted. It is also possible that some cases could be incorrectly identified as publicly funded, for example, where entitlement to legal aid changes after the appeal is submitted. TSIA ceased recording publicly funded data for ECO and FVV in February 2010 and for Asylum and MM in May 2010.

Court: Closures

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the closure of Lowestoft county court on people in the area. [32962]

Mr Djanogly: The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) that accompanies the consultation response paper for the Her Majesty"s Courts Service area of Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk identifies the potential impacts of the court estate proposals on different communities and groups of people.

While the court is to close and the administrative work transferred to Norwich county court, hearings will remain at the courthouse. Retaining the building as a hearing centre also enables a part-time counter service as well as information, drop box and copying facilities to remain available for local court users.

The consultation response papers and impact assessments can be found on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultations-closed-with-response.htm

Departmental Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely change in the level of National Offender Management Service staff at prison establishments consequent on the outcome of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [33098]

Mr Blunt: All the Ministry of Justice's front-line services are currently exploring ways in which they can operate more effectively in order to deliver the savings required in the Government's spending review. Our current estimate is that over the next four years we will need around 10,000 fewer staff in NOMS. This includes around 500-800 posts in NOMS HQ as a result of the organisational restructure designed to reduce back office costs by a third, with the remaining reductions being at prison establishment level. These reductions will be achieved through a combination of front-line efficiencies and reducing prison capacity due to the plans for rebalancing of sentencing set out in our recent Green Paper.

Drugs: Convictions

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of those convicted of drug-related offences in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 had previous convictions for drug-related offences. [32988]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 gives the figures for the percentage of offenders convicted of drug offences in 2007 to 2009 who had previously been convicted for drug offences.

Table 1: Percentage of offenders convicted for drug offences who had previous convictions for drug offences in 2007-09

Year of sentence	*Percentage*
2007	50.4
2008	51.9
2009	53.4

The figures presented in Table 1 have been taken from the dataset used for Table 6.1 of Sentence Statistics 2009 published by the Ministry of Justice on 24 October 2010. The figures are based on offences of drug possession, supply, production or import/export of drugs. The Ministry of Justice is unable to identify offences which may be drug related but are not specifically drug offences.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Employment Appeal Tribunal: Costs

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the running cost of the employment tribunal service was in the last year for which figures are available. [33534]

Mr Djanogly: The running costs of the employment tribunal, part of the Tribunals Service, for 2009-10 were £85 million.

Employment Appeal Tribunal: Fees and Charges

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of charging a fee to people likely to bring a case to the employment tribunal service. [33532]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are aware of proposals that fees for employment tribunal cases and appeals should be introduced. We are considering the matter with colleagues at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills as part of their wider work to review employment law and process. We anticipate making an announcement on these issues shortly.

Employment Appeal Tribunal: Small Business

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to encourage more small business owners to sit on employment tribunal panels. [33531]

Mr Djanogly: In England and Wales, the Lord Chancellor appoints employment tribunal members on merit, after fair and open competition from the widest range of eligible candidates. When making appointments, the Lord Chancellor is concerned that candidates must be selected solely on merit and must be people of good character. Further, in making such appointments, the Lord Chancellor has regard to the need to encourage diversity in the range of persons available for selection for appointments.

The last recruitment campaign for employment tribunal members took place in 2009-10. In addition to an extensive advertising strategy using key publications to attract a diverse range of applicants, the Tribunals Service engaged a range of representative organisations to promote and encourage as wide a pool of applicants as possible.

Ford Prison

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mobile telephones have been confiscated from prisoners at HM Prison Ford in the last six months. [33045]

Mr Blunt: This issue may form part of the ongoing investigations following the serious disturbance at HMP Ford on 1 January 2011. It would not be appropriate to comment prior to the conclusion of the investigations.

Fraud: Social Security Benefits

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many benefit recipients received a criminal conviction in 2009. [29514]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of people convicted of benefit fraud is collated each financial year.

In 2009-10, 7,040 people were convicted for benefit fraud in Department for Work and Pensions—administered benefits.

Information on the number of people convicted for benefit fraud in local authority administered benefits for 2009-10 is not available.

Industrial Disputes: Probation

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many registered disputes there were between the recognised trade unions and probation trusts in England and Wales on the most recent dates for which figures are available. [33530]

Mr Blunt: On the 12 January 2011 there were eight registered disputes reported between the recognised trade unions and the 35 probation trusts in England and Wales.

Legal Aid: Mental Health

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal aid clients were assessed under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [32621]

Mr Djanogly: We do not hold information on the number of legal aid clients who were assessed under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Information is available concerning the provision of legal aid for matters relating to the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Legal representation is available for some Mental Capacity Act 2005 cases brought before the Court of Protection; and Legal Help (initial advice and assistance) is generally available for initial advice and assistance for mental health and mental capacity related issues.

Legal Help

Matters closed 2009-10

	Number
Matters relating to the deprivation of liberty	35
Other Mental Capacity Act cases	258

Legal representation (Proceedings before the Court of Protection):

Certificates issued 2009-10

	Number
Matters relating to medical treatment	8
Matters relating to issues other than medical treatment	236
Matters relating to the deprivation of liberty	35

Legal Aid: Council Tax

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of council tax debt cases funded through legal aid resulted in *(a)* liability contested successfully, *(b)* debt written off and *(c)* debt reduced in the last 12 months. [32620]

Mr Djanogly: Legal representation for unpaid council tax cases in the magistrates court is outside the current scope of the civil legal aid scheme.

Legal aid is currently available for Legal Help (initial advice and assistance), but the Legal Services Commission's information technology systems do not record the level of detail requested.

Legal Aid: Debts

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of credit debt cases funded by legal aid closed with *(a)* liability contested successfully, *(b)* debt written off and *(c)* debt reduced in the last 12 months. [32623]

Mr Djanogly: We define credit debt cases as those relating to bank loans, credit cards, hire purchase and other regulated debts. The relevant proportions of credit debt cases funded by legal aid for legal help (initial advice and assistance) are:

(a) 1.82% of cases where the outcome is reported as liability contested successfully.

(b) 2.61% of cases where outcome is reported as debt written off.

(c) 1.50% of cases where outcome is reported as debt reduced.

For legal representation, data are not held at this level of detail.

Prisoners' Release

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons have been released on parole licence in each of the last 10 years. [33528]

Mr Blunt: Figures for the number of offenders released on parole licence in each of the last 10 years were published on 22 July 2010 in Offender Management Caseload Statistics (shown in tables 9.5 and 9.6). This can be found in the House Library and at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Additionally, the data can be seen in the tables.

In deciding whether or not to recommend release on license, the Parole Board consider primarily the risk to the public of a further offence being committed at a time when the prisoner would otherwise be in prison and whether any such risk is acceptable. This must be balanced against the benefit, both to the public and the offender, of early release back into the community under a degree of supervision which might help rehabilitation and so lessen the risk of re-offending in the future. The Board take into account that safeguarding the public may often outweigh the benefits to the offender of early release.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Summary of determinate sentence cases considered[1] by the Parole Board, England and Wales

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Parole Board cases											
Cases considered (number)	6,219	5,576	5.514	6,012	6,038	7,297	7,528	6,923	6,012	2,893	1,656
Existing prisoners[2] (number)	83	41	27	15	6	8	7	1	2	4	—
DCR[3] prisoners (number)	6,136	5,535	5,487	5,997	6,032	7,289	7,521	6,922	6,010	2,889	—

Summary of determinate sentence cases considered[1] by the Parole Board, England and Wales

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Recommended for parole (number)	2,561	2,584	2,791	3,175	3,206	3,794	3,718	2,478	2,157	682	296
Existing prisoners (number)	15	14	11	5	3	1	4	0	1	1	—
DCR[3] prisoners (number)	2,546	2,570	2,780	3,170	3,203	3,793	3,714	2,478	2,156	681	—
Percentage of cases recommended out of those considered for parole	41	46	51	53	53	52	49	36	36	24	18
Existing prisoners (%)	18	34	41	33	50	13	57	0	50	25	—
DCR[3] prisoners (%)	41	46	51	53	53	52	49	36	36	24	—

[1] Data for 2009 are based on information recorded on the central prison IT system on 30 April 2010. Further updates and amendments may be made to records on this system in future resulting in revised figures.

[2] Existing prisoners refers to prisoners serving sentences prior to the commencement of the Criminal Justice Act 1991. There are now very few such prisoners, so from 2009 the figures for existing and DCR prisoners are no longer shown separately.

[3] DCR is discretionary conditional release.

Number of first releases from prison on life licence and indeterminate sentence for public protection, England and Wales

Number

	Year of first release										
	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Total released	120	113	122	144	223	205	200	135	146	138	195
Mandatory lifers	110	101	111	117	185	152	156	100	90	98	73
Other lifers	10	12	11	27	38	53	44	35	56	40	69
Indeterminate sentences for Public Protection (IPP)[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	13	36	53

[1] IPPs were introduced in 2005 and the first release from prison for a prisoner serving an IPP sentence was in 2006.

Prisoners: Payments

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individual payments to prisoners have been made in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how much each such prisoner received. [33089]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service made 3,166 individual compensation payments to prisoners in the financial year 2009-10. The amount and number of payments made are shown in the following table.

Payment band	*Number of payments*	*Total payments for band (£)*
£0 to £1,000	2,732	228,174
£1,001 to £5,000	262	699,362
£5,001 to £10,000	97	700,590
£10,001 to £20,000	41	573,340
£20,001 to £50,000	30	925,730
£50,001 to £100,000	2	135,000
£100,001 to £250,000	2	252,228
£250,001 to over	0	0
Totals	3,166	3,514,424

The amounts of individual payments have not been provided in order to prevent the possible identification of prisoners.

Prisons: Construction

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to *(a)* build new prisons or *(b)* add accommodation in existing prisons in the period to the end of the financial year 2014-15. [33529]

Mr Blunt: As part of the existing "Capacity Programme", we are continuing to build the new prison places to which we are contractually committed. New prisons are being built at Featherstone in Staffordshire and Belmarsh West in the London borough of Greenwich. We expect both prisons to be complete in 2012. We are also expanding Buckley Hall in Lancashire and Moorland in South Yorkshire; these places will become operational in 2011.

The New Prisons Programme which planned five new 1,500 place prisons remains under consideration with particular examination of how plans should be adapted to meet the Government's objectives of work in prisons and rehabilitation outlined in the Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders". However, any places from this programme are unlikely to become available by 2014-15.

Remand in Custody: Young People

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 506W, on remand in custody:

young people, whether he expects information on the number of looked after children who are received into the secure estate to be collected centrally under his Department's new data strategy; and if he will make a statement. [33077]

Mr Blunt: The data strategy is out for consultation, but does not propose central collection of the number of looked after children who are received into the secure estate.

Reoffenders

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reoffending rate is for each *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offender institution. [33001]

Mr Blunt: The individual prison reoffending rates for 2007 are shown in the tables as published by the Ministry of Justice in the Compendium of Reoffending Statistics and Analysis in November 2010.

The tables show reoffending rates for each prison in 2007 presented by prison category and prison sentence length (under 12 months and 12 months and over sentences).

The reoffending rates provided have been calculated based on the prison from which an offender was discharged and ignore the time spent at other institutions during that sentence.

The tables also show the average number of previous offences, average number of custodial sentences and the average age of the offenders discharged from each prison in 2007. This illustrates that different prisons can have populations with a substantially different likelihood of reoffending.

Young offender institution reoffending rates are not included, as the work published to date only considered adult prisons.

More information on the individual prison reoffending rates is available from the Ministry of Justice website.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/compendium-reoffending.htm

Category B prisons

Under 12 months sentences

Prison	*Number of offenders*	*Reoffending rate (percentage)*	*Average number of previous offences*	*Average number of previous custodial sentences*	*Average age*
All	12	*	*	*	*
Albany	1	*	*	*	*
Dovegate	1	*	*	*	*
Garth	1	*	*	*	*
Gartree	0	*	*	*	*
Grendon	1	*	*	*	*
Kingston (Portsmouth)	0	*	*	*	*
Lowdham Grange	2	*	*	*	*
Parkhurst	5	*	*	*	*
Rye Hill	1	*	*	*	*
Swaleside	0	*	*	*	*

12 months and over sentences

Prison	*Number of offenders*	*Reoffending rate (percentage)*	*Average number of previous offences*	*Average number of previous custodial sentences*	*Average age*
All	200	26.5	38	5	39
Albany	18	*	*	*	*
Dovegate	40	*	*	*	*
Garth	41	*	*	*	*
Gartree	0	*	*	*	*
Grendon	6	*	*	*	*
Kingston (Portsmouth)	0	*	*	*	*
Lowdham Grange	39	*	*	*	*
Parkhurst	26	*	*	*	*
Rye Hill	26	*	*	*	*
Swaleside	4	*	*	*	*

Category C prisons

Under 12 months sentences

Prison	*Number of offenders*	*Reoffending rate (percentage)*	*Average number of previous offences*	*Average number of previous custodial sentences*	*Average age*
All	4,858	57.1	42.7	5.5	31.8
Acklington	90	61.1	61.6	7.5	32.7
Ashwell	54	51.9	45.9	5.9	31.3
Blundeston	40	*	*	*	*
Brockhill	124	46.0	42.3	5.7	32.5
Buckley Hall	32	*	*	*	*
Bullwood Hall	75	38.7	9.8	1.5	33.0
Camp Hill	96	62.5	53.7	6.0	30.7
Canterbury	85	38.8	8.5	1.1	33.6
Channings Wood	128	53.1	51.2	6.3	32.3
Coldingley	8	*	*	*	*
Dartmoor	86	47.7	60.2	6.5	34.8
Edmunds Hill	429	55.2	34.2	5.0	33.5
Elmley	418	73.9	41.4	6.1	32.5
Erlestoke	59	55.9	54.1	6.2	29.9
Everthorpe	322	59.6	44.2	5.2	30.5
Featherstone	50	*	*	*	*
Guys Marsh	232	65.9	46.9	5.2	29.8
Haverigg	185	60.5	46.1	5.5	31.4
Highpoint	136	61.0	32.3	5.3	31.8
Kennet	53	56.6	46.9	6.2	32.2
Lancaster	48	*	*	*	*
Lindholme	325	63.7	46.1	5.5	31.9
Littlehey	26	*	*	*	*
Maidstone	10	*	*	*	*
Moorland	97	55.7	44.0	5.2	27.9
Mount	6	*	*	*	*
Onley	246	65.0	39.2	5.0	27.6
Ranby	440	62.3	51.4	6.8	31.9
Risley	125	55.2	50.6	7.2	30.0
Shepton Mallet	0	*	*	*	*
Stafford	78	43.6	37.6	4.8	33.5
Stocken	109	56.0	48.2	6.0	32.7
Usk	9	*	*	*	*
Verne	5	*	*	*	*
Wayland	108	51.9	43.0	6.6	33.2
Wealstun	371	43.4	31.4	3.2	31.6

Category C prisons

Under 12 months sentences

Prison	*Number of offenders*	*Reoffending rate (percentage)*	*Average number of previous offences*	*Average number of previous custodial sentences*	*Average age*
Weare	0	*	*	*	*
Wellingborough	47	*	*	*	*
Whatton	21	*	*	*	*
Wolds	22	*	*	*	*
Wymott	63	33.3	38.1	4.8	34.2

12 months and over sentences

Prison	*Number of offenders*	*Reoffending rate (percentage)*	*Average number of previous offences*	*Average number of previous custodial sentences*	*Average age*
All	7,560	26.5	30.8	3.7	34.6
Acklington	377	25.2	33.8	3.7	36.0
Ashwell	167	23.4	26.7	3.0	32.6
Blundeston	103	31.1	28.1	3.5	32.0
Brockhill	69	20.3	25.5	3.1	31.9
Buckley Hall	117	23.9	41.3	5.5	33.3
Bullwood Hall	22	*	*	*	*
Camp Hill	217	26.3	31.9	3.9	32.4
Canterbury	30	*	*	*	*
Channings Wood	258	27.9	35.7	4.1	36.8
Coldingley	37	*	*	*	*
Dartmoor	249	27.7	34.4	4.2	37.2
Edmunds Hill	221	33.5	29.1	4.3	33.3
Elmley	177	35.6	29.5	3.6	36.0
Erlestoke	115	22.6	38.[illegible]	4.1	33.0
Everthorpe	359	34.8	38.8	4.1	29.8
Featherstone	198	24.2	31.9	4.0	32.9
Guys Marsh	213	39.0	38.5	4.4	33.3
Haverigg	221	37.6	42.7	5.1	32.2
Highpoint	208	29.8	24.9	3.6	32.8
Kennet	17	*	*	*	*
Lancaster	109	33.9	52.9	7.1	33.8
Lindholme	365	35.3	38.6	4.5	31.2
Littlehey	201	9.0	17.7	2.3	44.3
Maidstone	81	19.8	16.1	1.9	41.0
Moorland	245	31.8	32.9	3.7	29.2
Mount	58	25.9	27.4	3.6	35.0
Onley	216	32.9	28.2	3.6	29.4
Ranby	414	33.1	34.7	4.2	32.1
Risley	387	30.7	33.6	4.3	33.4
Shepton Mallet	1	*	*	*	*
Stafford	250	23.2	24.0	2.9	38.7
Stocken	207	25.6	35.9	4.6	32.2
Usk	98	11.2	10.9	1.1	45.5
Verne	55	18.2	30.4	4.1	38.5
Wayland	183	21.3	27.3	3.4	34.8
Wealstun	388	16.2	25.4	2.9	34.9
Weare	0	*	*	*	*
Wellingborough	186	26.9	28.7	3.3	31.6
Whatton	245	2.0	9.0	1.0	47.1
Wolds	118	27.1	39.2	4.7	32.3
Wymott	378	17.7	24.3	3.0	39.6

High security prisons

Under 12 months sentences

Prison	*Number of offenders*	*Reoffending rate (percentage)*	*Average number of previous offences*	*Average number of previous custodial sentences*	*Average age*
All	0	*	*	*	*
Frankland	0	*	*	*	*
Full Sutton	0	*	*	*	*
Long Lartin	0	*	*	*	*
Wakefield	0	*	*	*	*
Whitemoor	0	*	*	*	*

12 months and over sentences

Prison	*Number of offenders*	*Reoffending rate (percentage)*	*Average number of previous offences*	*Average number of previous custodial sentences*	*Average age*
All	76	2.6	29.4	3.9	47.9
Frankland	32	*	*	*	*
Full Sutton	24	*	*	*	*
Long Lartin	3	*	*	*	*
Wakefield	11	*	*	*	*
Whitemoor	6	*	*	*	*

Female prisons

Under 12 months sentences

Prison	*Number of offenders*	*Reoffending rate (percentage)*	*Average number of previous offences*	*Average number of previous custodial sentences*	*Average age*
All	4,021	66.5	41.9	4.4	31.0
Bronzefield	541	66.9	39.2	4.5	32.3
Cookham Wood	54	51.9	36.2	4.1	35.3
Downview	54	50.0	32.0	3.3	33.3
Drake Hall	200	47.5	30.0	2.8	32.3
Eastwood Park	587	70.2	41.3	4.2	29.5
Foston Hall	230	67.8	45.7	4.6	30.8
Holloway	636	62.1	34.2	4.6	30.6
Low Newton	241	75.5	52.9	4.8	29.6
Morton Hall	33	*	*	*	*
New Hall	435	76.6	42.8	4.4	30.1
Peterborough Female	502	62.9	36.4	3.4	30.6
Send	13	*	*	*	*
Styal	495	72.3	61.7	6.5	32.1

12 months and over sentences

Prison	*Number of offenders*	*Reoffending rate (percentage)*	*Average number of previous offences*	*Average number of previous custodial sentences*	*Average age*
All	1,083	24.1	23.1	1.9	32.0
Bronzefield	35	*	*	*	*
Cookham Wood	44	*	*	*	*

12 months and over sentences

Prison	Number of offenders	Reoffending rate (percentage)	Average number of previous offences	Average number of previous custodial sentences	Average age
Downview	108	20.4	16.9	1.6	34.5
Drake Hall	161	8.7	16.4	0.9	33.7
Eastwood Park	68	22.1	15.6	0.8	29.9
Foston Hall	64	23.4	20.9	2.4	32.1
Holloway	80	37.5	26.1	2.2	28.0
Low Newton	100	36.0	30.4	2.4	29.1
Morton Hall	79	7.6	11.5	0.8	38.4
New Hall	88	39.8	36.6	3.3	29.3
Peterborough Female	102	34.3	22.0	1.6	31.0
Send	46	*	*	*	*
Styal	108	28.7	34.3	3.3	30.7

Male local prisons

Under 12 months sentences

Prison	Number of offenders	Reoffending rate (percentage)	Average number of previous offences	Average number of previous custodial sentences	Average age
All	24,311	67.3	48.0	6.5	32.0
Altcourse	1,138	66.3	48.2	6.3	31.5
Bedford	647	59.5	34.8	5.1	32.8
Belmarsh	508	65.2	37.0	6.5	33.3
Birmingham	1,136	67.9	47.5	6.8	32.1
Blakenhurst	985	67.1	46.9	6.7	32.1
Bristol	481	71.5	63.0	7.6	33.3
Brixton	661	66.1	37.3	6.6	34.4
Bullingdon	608	66.4	46.0	5.5	32.4
Cardiff	460	67.2	61.4	7.3	32.1
Chelmsford	689	69.7	41.0	6.2	30.4
Doncaster	1,204	68.9	46.2	5.4	29.2
Dorchester	237	74.7	60.6	9.8	33.9
Durham	747	70.4	61.9	7.1	31.7
Exeter	755	70.3	48.2	6.1	31.5
Forest Bank	861	67.4	55.5	8.1	31.9
Gloucester	295	74.6	59.3	7.2	32.4
High Down	542	71.2	40.9	5.6	30.9
Holme House	743	71.5	61.9	7.9	31.4
Hull	546	73.8	51.8	6.7	29.2
Leeds	810	74.0	56.1	7.5	32.2
Leicester	435	64.8	46.7	6.2	32.2
Lewes	420	69.3	49.9	6.3	33.1
Lincoln	551	67.0	48.7	5.9	32.5
Liverpool	1,515	64.2	49.4	6.7	33.1
Manchester	889	64.6	52.0	7.6	33.1
Norwich	454	68.1	37.8	4.6	28.1
Nottingham	444	69.6	54.5	8.1	33.1
Parc	605	67.4	40.4	4.6	25.2
Pentonville	766	69.2	35.1	6.1	33.8
Peterborough Male	544	62.9	45.7	6.9	32.8
Preston	510	69.4	61.7	8.0	33.6
Shrewsbury	276	64.9	43.0	5.9	32.0
Swansea	359	65.7	60.3	7.2	31.4
Wandsworth	630	65.7	41.7	7.5	34.6
Winchester	398	65.3	53.8	6.0	34.0
Woodhill	541	62.3	44.0	5.6	31.6
Wormwood Scrubs	921	59.4	31.6	5.3	34.4

12 months and over sentences

Prison	Number of offenders	Reoffending rate (percentage)	Average number of previous offences	Average number of previous custodial sentences	Average age
All	5,360	38.0	37.0	4.4	33.3
Altcourse	327	26.9	30.3	3.6	31.7
Bedford	68	35.3	28.3	3.4	33.1
Belmarsh	81	37.0	30.2	4.6	32.7
Birmingham	290	33.1	33.9	4.5	33.0
Blakenhurst	136	41.9	35.3	3.8	31.6
Bristol	66	47.0	51.2	5.6	35.5
Brixton	57	54.4	40.3	6.7	39.3
Bullingdon	208	29.3	26.7	2.9	34.8
Cardiff	138	36.2	48.3	5.1	32.0
Chelmsford	90	33.3	30.6	4.4	31.4
Doncaster	198	39.9	40.1	4.3	31.3
Dorchester	31	*	*	*	*
Durham	178	43.8	43.9	4.8	33.0
Exeter	70	44.3	39.4	4.6	33.5
Forest Bank	196	46.4	45.7	5.9	32.1
Gloucester	51	45.1	52.7	6.2	34.7
High Down	95	26.3	35.2	4.4	34.8
Holme House	259	40.2	39.5	4.5	31.5
Hull	200	30.0	34.7	3.6	38.6
Leeds	173	50.9	46.1	5.8	33.1
Leicester	42	*	*	*	*
Lewes	142	54.9	48.5	5.9	33.1
Lincoln	126	45.2	45.9	4.9	34.5
Liverpool	339	38.3	39.4	4.9	32.9
Manchester	175	34.9	35.7	4.9	33.3
Norwich	141	33.3	29.3	3.4	31.6
Nottingham	60	48.3	47.9	5.2	33.7
Parc	364	40.4	31.1	3.2	28.7
Pentonville	84	31.0	19.5	3.1	34.3
Peterborough Male	140	35.0	32.5	3.9	34.0
Preston	171	45.6	52.5	5.6	32.8
Shrewsbury	38	*	*	*	*
Swansea	108	37.0	46.9	4.5	32.3
Wandsworth	148	25.0	24.1	3.8	40.0
Winchester	133	30.8	33.7	4.0	36.7
Woodhill	96	40.6	34.6	4.2	33.9
Wormwood Scrubs	141	40.4	26.9	4.5	35.0

Open prisons

Under 12 months sentences

Prison	*Number of offenders*	*Reoffending rate (percentage)*	*Average number of previous offences*	*Average number of previous custodial sentences*	*Average age*
All	3,126	38.3	26.1	2.9	33.3
Askham Grange	12	*	*	*	*
Blantyre House	1	*	*	*	*
East Sutton Park	11	[illegible]	*	*	*
Ford	410	41.7	27.8	3.0	34.0
Hewell Grange	123	32.5	27.2	3.3	34.1
Hollesley Bay	276	36.6	18.7	1.9	31.7
Kirkham	573	36.1	28.0	3.3	32.9
Kirklevington	8	*	*	*	*
Latchmere House	1	*	*	*	*
Leyhill	396	40.9	30.2	3.3	34.5
Moorland Open	56	28.6	24.5	1.9	32.7
North Sea Camp	436	40.1	26.5	2.9	32.8
Prescoed	107	40.2	28.8	3.1	31.9
Spring Hill	172	26.7	21.1	2.1	35.6
Standford Hill	397	41.8	22.9	3.0	33.5
Sudbury	147	42.2	29.4	3.4	31.1

12 months and over sentences

Prison	*Number of offenders*	*Reoffending rate (percentage)*	*Average number of previous offences*	*Average number of previous custodial sentences*	*Average age*
All	2,950	9.2	15.4	1.7	35.7
Askham Grange	91	6.6	13.2	0.9	33.7
Blantyre House	26	*	*	*	*
East Sutton Park	70	5.7	5.9	0.3	36.2
Ford	269	6.3	13.9	1.4	35.7
Hewell Grange	130	6.9	16.4	1.7	35.5
Hollesley Bay	238	9.2	14.9	1.7	35.2
Kirkham	390	9.7	16.9	1.9	35.4
Kirklevington	122	6.6	13.6	1.3	34.3
Latchmere House	95	5.3	12.8	1.9	40.0
Leyhill	242	12.0	17.1	1.6	37.3
Moorland Open	192	10.9	17.7	2.0	34.0
North Sea Camp	179	15.1	17.7	1.8	35.7
Prescoed	107	9.3	18.4	1.7	35.2
Spring Hill	195	5.6	14.7	1.5	35.4
Standford Hill	263	10.3	14.0	1.8	36.0
Sudbury	341	11.1	16.0	1.7	35.5

Unfair Dismissal

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees have taken their employer to an employment tribunal for unfair dismissal where no grounds for dismissal have been given and where the dismissal took place after the employee had been employed for more than 12 months but less than two years in each of the last five years. [33270]

Mr Djanogly: The Tribunals Service publishes statistics annually and quarterly, including information on the types of complaints made to employment tribunals. The following table shows the number of unfair dismissal claims lodged (or 'accepted') and determined or otherwise resolved ('disposed') in each of the last five complete financial years.

Data on whether or not grounds for dismissal were given in such cases, or statistics on the claimants' length of service, are not collated centrally. This information could only be provided at a disproportionate cost by manually checking individual case files and records.

Unfair dismissal claims accepted and disposed 2005 to 2010

	Jurisdictional claims accepted	*Jurisdictional claims disposed*
2005-06	41,800	35,400
2006-07	44,500	38,400
2007-08	40,900	37,000
2008-09	52,700	39,400
2009-10	57,400	50,900

Volunteers and Lay Advisers

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to ensure that volunteers and lay advisers who provide legal advice have a minimum qualification level; and if he will make a statement. [32622]

Mr Djanogly: The Government have no plans to ensure that volunteers and lay advisers who provide legal advice have a minimum qualification at this time.

There are reviews planned in the legal services sector however which may impact on the future provision of legal advice. The first is that the Legal Services Board, the oversight regulator for legal services, will in the next year undertake a review to assess whether the scope of regulation is set appropriately to protect consumers. The second is that the three largest legal regulators (the Solicitors Regulation Authority, Bar Standards Board and Institute of Legal Executives Professional Standards) are currently undertaking a review of regulatory requirements in relation to the education and training of the legal workforce. One of the issues the review will consider is whether regulatory requirements should be put in place in relation to the training and competence of individuals who are not qualified lawyers but who work in regulated organisations.

Young Offenders

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders were in custody in England and Wales *(a)* in December 1996, *(b)* in December 2009 and *(c)* on the most recent date for which figures are available. [32939]

Mr Blunt: Figures are provided in the following table and the data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board (YJB). The YJB started collecting data on the number of young people in custody in England and Wales in April 2000 and it is not possible to provide comparable data from before that date. Data for December 2009 are provisional and will be finalised and published in the 2009-10 Youth Justice statistics. The most recent provisional data available are for October 2010.

The figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

	Number of young people under 18 in custody
April 2000 (earliest data available)	2,610
December 2009	2,203
October 2010 (latest provisional data available)	1,995

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely effect on future levels of local authority funding for bus services of the implementation of the proposal to reduce the Bus Service Operators Grant. [27665]

Norman Baker: Around 20% of local bus services in England outside London are provided under tender to the relevant local authority. It is possible that bus operators may seek higher funding levels from local authorities in future tender bids as a result of the reduction in Bus Service Operators Grant. However, it is up to local authorities to decide whether or not they wish to continue to fund tendered services in the light of available resources and local priorities.

The simplification of local transport funding undertaken through the spending review will give local authorities greater flexibility, enabling solutions to be tailored for the specific needs and circumstances of individual communities.

Mayor of London

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions he has had with the Mayor of London during the winter weather of November and December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [29629]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport discussed the impact of winter weather on transport during a telephone conversation with the Mayor on Friday 3 December 2010. The Secretary of State had a further telephone conversation with the Mayor in the week ending 24 December 2010. The Secretary of State also spoke to Daniel Moylan on 18 December 2010 and has had frequent e-mail contact with him since.

The Department for Transport has maintained contact with Transport for London and London Underground since before the start of the period of severe winter weather.

Plugged-In Places

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to announce the outcome of the Plugged-In Places scheme; and if he will make a statement. [33031]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State for Transport announced the outcome of the second round of Plugged-In Places funding on 14 December 2010. Five projects were successful, based in Northern Ireland, Central Scotland, Greater Manchester, the Midlands and the East of England. These supplement the three existing projects in London, Milton Keynes and the North East.

The outcomes of these projects will inform the development of national policy regarding electric vehicle infrastructure, with a strategy for promoting the installation of charging infrastructure due to be published in June 2011.

Railway Stations: Disability

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking with *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* train operating companies to improve the compliance of railway stations with legal requirements for access for disabled passengers. [33525]

Norman Baker: The Equality Act 2010 requires service providers, including Network Rail and train operators, to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled people are not at a substantial disadvantage when using their services.

In addition, European and UK-wide accessible standards in the Department for Transport's publication, "Accessible Train Station Design for Disabled People: A Code of Practice" should be followed whenever station infrastructure is renewed or installed. This is available on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/rail/railstations/accessiblestationdesigns/

In 2006, the previous Government launched the Railways for All strategy which included a £370 million Access for All fund for improvements to stations, in addition to the commitments in rail franchises, and major upgrades or renewals, to accelerate this process. The coalition Government are continuing with the published Access for All Programme.

Railway Stations: Repairs and Maintenance

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funds his Department makes available for improvements in rail station access and infrastructure; and whether Silverdale Station in Lancashire is eligible to receive such funding. [33318]

Norman Baker: Funding for improvements to general station infrastructure is available through the National Stations Improvement Programme (NSIP). Adding

Silverdale to this programme would be a decision for Northern Rail, but it would need to be at the expense of a station already included.

In addition, since 2006, funding for station accessibility improvements has been available through the Access for All Small Schemes Programme and, in 2007, £27,500 was offered to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to provide a ramp to improve access to Silverdale station. Unfortunately the scheme was later withdrawn and no further bids for funding have been received.

Railway Stations: Richmond Park

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funds allocated to improving rail platforms in the 2010 spending review will be spent in Richmond Park constituency. [32972]

Mrs Villiers: The detailed allocation of funding for platform improvements is a matter for Network Rail. Network Rail is funded to deliver a range of solutions, but the nature of these improvements will depend on the service changes proposed by the train operating companies to deliver the additional passenger capacity that the Government wish to provide.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the level of overcrowding on commuter rail services which serve stations in Richmond Park constituency. [33065]

Mrs Villiers: Train operating companies submit morning and evening peak train plans to the Department for Transport for May and December timetable changes each year. Overcrowding levels are assessed by comparing counts of passengers against the plans. The assessment informs the plans for the next timetable iteration and the deployment of train capacity. These assessments contain commercially confidential information and are not published, but the Department uses the data as the base for strategic forecasts of peak demand change. The latest assessment for South West Trains, which operates services serving stations in Richmond Park constituency, was for the December 2010 timetable change.

London Overground also operates services in Richmond Park constituency. London Overground is franchised by Transport for London who would carry out any assessment of the level of overcrowding on these services.

Railways: Crimes of Violence

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many arrests relating to violence on trains were made in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [32984]

Mrs Villiers: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer to him of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 996W.

Railways: Finance

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the average amount of funding from the public purse *(a)* per kilometre and *(b)* per journey provided for rail travel (i) originating from Bedford, (ii) using the Thameslink line and (iii) nationally in the last 12 months. [33146]

Mrs Villiers: Train operator subsidies and support are calculated in accordance with franchise agreements and are not broken down by specific route.

Data on total subsidies and premiums paid or received by franchised train operators are available in National Rail Trends (NRT) which is published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). These data include a calculation of subsidy per passenger kilometre for each individual franchise as well as nationally. National Rail Trends is available in the Library of the House and on the Office of Rail Regulation website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to reduce the level of roadworks in London; and if he will make a statement. [30359]

Mrs Villiers: It is for Transport for London and the London borough councils to manage and co-ordinate the works that are carried out on their highways.

There are a number of legislative and non-legislative tools available to local highway authorities to manage these works. The Department for Transport's business plan, available at:

www.dft.gov.uk

includes a number of proposals to enhance these tools, for example the introduction of lane rental schemes and discussions on these proposals continues with Transport for London, representatives of local government, and the Mayor.

Roads: Tyres

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of *(a)* mandatory and *(b)* voluntary adoption of winter tyres on British roads. [32911]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has not undertaken a formal assessment on the merits of a mandatory requirement for drivers to fit winter tyres when driving on British roads.

It is appropriate for drivers rather than Government to make that decision about tyre choice and factors such as the costs of purchasing winter tyres, storing the original set of tyres, and refitting them when the conditions improve will be part of their consideration. The tyre industry provides advice and guidance to help people make that choice.

Rolling Stock: Greater London

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussion his Department has had with train operating companies on rolling stock for the London to Malvern train service which will operate on both electrified and non-electrified track. [30741]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has recently discussed with First Great Western the two leading options for rolling stock for the Great Western Main Line that were identified by the Secretary of State on 25 November.

South West Trains

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department expects to complete negotiations with Stagecoach South West Trains for the delivery of additional passenger capacity and longer trains on the route to London Waterloo by 2014. [33129]

Mrs Villiers: Following the announcement by the Secretary of State for Transport on 25 November 2010 that additional carriages would be provided into Waterloo, the Department for Transport has recommenced discussions with Stagecoach South Western Trains. As these are commercial negotiations it is not possible to give a firm completion date at this stage. However, we are seeking to reach a commercial agreement in 2011 with Stagecoach South Western Trains, which provides value for money and affordability to the tax payer and will deliver additional carriages by 2014.

Transport: Standards

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what methods other than cost-benefit ratios his Department uses to appraise and rank transport projects; [31478]

(2) what weight his Department proposes to give in appraising and ranking transport projects to the assessment of effects on *(a)* physical activity and obesity, *(b)* journey-time reliability, *(c)* gross value added to the economy, *(d)* carbon dioxide emissions and *(e)* time savings by users; [31479]

(3) whether the proposed changes to appraisal methodology for transport projects will include *(a)* an assessment of the size and distribution of time savings to users and *(b)* consideration of the effects on the level of carbon dioxide emissions. [31480]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport's approach to appraising proposed transport schemes involves identifying a wide range of economic, environmental, and social impacts. An overview is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/webtag/documents/overview/unit1.1.php

Benefit-cost ratios (BCRs), after adjustment for non-monetised impacts, are used to inform the economic case through a value for money assessment. Scheme decisions are taken on the strength of their overall business case, of which the economic case is one part.

The impacts of a scheme on: physical activity and obesity; journey time reliability; carbon dioxide emissions; and, time savings by users are reported in the Appraisal Summary Table (AST). Impacts on GVA are captured within these and other categories in the table.

In line with HM Treasury's Green Book appraisal guidance, wherever possible, impacts are monetised using evidence-based values. The size of each impact, and its monetary value, determine its contribution to a scheme's BCR, before it is adjusted for non-monetised impacts in the value for money assessment. However, the presentation of the impacts in the AST allows the decision maker to form their own view over each impact's relative importance, when considering the overall business case.

Last year, the Department for Transport issued 'in-draft' scheme appraisal guidance requiring scheme promoters to report how benefits from travel time changes break down into time bands, one of which is zero to two minutes per trip. The guidance is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/webtag/documents/expert/pdf/unit3.5.3d.pdf

At the same time, the Department for Transport also published updated 'in-draft' guidance to reflect the current carbon prices that were based on the then current guidance from the Department for Energy and Climate Change. These carbon prices are provided in Table 2a of the 'in-draft' 'Greenhouse Gases Sub-Objective' guidance available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/webtag/documents/expert/pdf/unit3.3.5d.pdf

These 'in-draft' carbon prices were used for the appraisal of schemes during the spending review, to ensure decisions were informed by the most up-to-date values of carbon impacts.

The Department for Transport's Business Plan for 2011-15 states it will reform the way transport projects are assessed, and funding prioritisation decisions are made, so that the benefits of low carbon proposals are fully recognised. This includes reviewing and revising its guidance on appraising transport projects, as well as its processes for assessing schemes and supporting ministerial decisions. We aim to announce the scope and timetable of this review shortly.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals for the introduction of a mobility component for claimants of attendance allowance. [32991]

Maria Miller: We have no plans to amend the entitlement conditions for attendance allowance to introduce a mobility component. It is normal for pensions and benefit schemes to contain different provisions for people at different stages of their lives. Disability living allowance which has a mobility component is intended to focus additional help with the extra cost of disability on people who have the very considerable disadvantage of being severely disabled earlier in life and who as a consequence have less opportunity to work, earn and save compared to non-disabled people.

Attendance allowance provides help with the disability-related extra costs of people who experience the onset of disability after age 65. Based on the need for personal care, this help is part of the wide range of support that the Government make available to older people so that they can have a decent and secure income in retirement.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the compatibility with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights of his proposed reforms to disability living allowance. [33456]

Maria Miller: We believe that our DLA reform proposals are compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

The coalition Government published a public consultation on disability living allowance reform on 6 December 2010. The closing date of the consultation is 14 February 2011 and we will consider the responses we receive as part of our response to the consultation.

Consideration was given to the equality impacts of our reforms as we developed the consultation document.

An equality impact assessment of our proposals will be published with our proposed legislation, and will be updated as we develop more detail of how our reforms will work in practice.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 December 2010 from the hon. Member for Walsall North on a constituent, which was transferred to his Department from HM Treasury. [33461]

Chris Grayling: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 11 January 2011.

Pensioners: Means-tested Benefits

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of pensioners that would be lifted out of poverty if take-up of means-tested benefits was 100%; and if he will make a statement. [33325]

Steve Webb: Our latest estimates show that if there were 100% take-up of all means tested benefits (pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit) by pensioners entitled to them, the number of pensioners below 60% of contemporary median income, after housing costs, would fall by around 600,000, based on 2009-10 benefit rates.

We want to ensure that older people receive the help that they are entitled to and we are conducting a research study into the feasibility of using existing data to help to improve the take-up of pension credit.

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) continues to work closely with local organisations to encourage and support people to take up the benefits they are entitled to. It will continue to work with local partners to reach particularly vulnerable customers who are not aware of their full entitlements, helping these customers complete application forms for the range of benefits during the one visit.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the reasons are for the time taken in listing Mr John McGlone's appeal against loss of benefit; and when he expects the case to be listed. [33295]

Maria Miller: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what the reasons are for the time taken in listing Mr John McGlone's appeal against loss of benefit: and when he expects the case to be listed. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As this is a personal matter relating to the individual involved, I will write to you separately.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Consumer Direct

10. **George Eustice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions Ministers in his Department have had with the Citizens Advice Bureau on the future management of Consumer Direct. [33237]

Mr Davey: I met the chief executive of Citizens Advice, on 29 September 2010 where the future of Consumer Direct was discussed along with the other functions that Government are planning to transfer to it. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills also met Gillian Guy on 4 November.

SMEs: Access to Finance

19. **Mr Gyimah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure that small and medium-sized enterprises are able to gain access to finance. [33250]

Mr Prisk: We are currently in discussions with the banks seeking an agreement for them to lend verifiably more than they were planning to viable businesses especially SMEs.

We want more competition in business banking which is why we have set up the Independent Commission on Banking.

And we are supporting alternatives to bank lending such as the equity based enterprise capital funds.

Regional Growth Fund

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance he expects small and medium-sized businesses to receive from the regional growth fund in the next 12 months. [33231]

Mr Prisk: The regional growth fund is a challenge fund, in which competitive bids are judged on merit. However, the fund has been designed to be accessible to a wide range of bidders and that includes small and medium-sized businesses.

Employment Tribunals Service

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to steps to avoid spurious claims being taken to the employment tribunal service. [33533]

Mr Davey: As part of the review of employment laws, the Government are considering calling for changes to the employment tribunal system and will be making announcements in this area shortly.

Forensic Science: Graduates

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people completed degrees in forensic science in each year since 2005. [33328]

Mr Willetts: The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. Figures are shown for forensic and archaeological science. This combined classification captures all forensic science courses, whether taught as a single subject or in combination with archaeological science. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available from 13 January.

Forensic and archaeological science first degree graduates[1]—UK higher education institutions, academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Qualifiers*
2004/05	745
2005/06	1,195
2006/07	1,445
2007/08	1,640
2008/09	1,710

[1] Covers qualifiers from both full-time and part-time first degree courses and qualifiers of all domiciles.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from Coventry local authority area entered each higher education institution in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [33034]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency on the numbers of entrants from Coventry local authority to higher education courses at UK higher education institutions can be found in the Libraries of the House. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from 13 January 2011. Comparable local authority level information for entrants to higher education courses at further education colleges is not available. These figures have been calculated using a new methodology based on updated postcode information and are, therefore, not comparable with local authority and constituency-level data which may have been published previously.

Innovation

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what sites he is considering as locations for technology innovation centres; and when he expects such centres to be established. [33088]

Mr Willetts: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr Hayes) to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne Central (Chi Onwurah) on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column reference 643W, and on 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column reference 745W.

The Technology Strategy Board has recently published a prospectus to begin the process of establishing the centres. The prospectus identifies potential candidate technology areas for centres and notes that the Technology Strategy Board is seeking to establish the first centre in high value manufacturing. After consultations a decision will be taken on the establishment of this first centre in March 2011. Future centres will be established in two phases, with the first phase starting in 2011/2012 and the second during 2012/2013.

Rupert Murdoch

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with (i) Rupert Murdoch, (ii) James Murdoch, (iii) Rebekah Wade, (iv) individuals representing News International, (v) individuals representing News Corporation and (vi) individuals representing BSkyB since 4 November 2010. [32213]

Mr Vaizey: *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* I have been asked to reply in my role as Minister with responsibility for culture, communications and creative industries.

There has not been direct ministerial level meetings with any member or representative of Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation.

On 3 December, two individuals from BSkyB attended an official level discussion at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) on proposed changes to Ofcom's appeals regime. On 4 November, an individual from BSkyB attended my roundtable on digital content along with several other internet service providers. Again on 17 December two individuals from BSkyB attended an official level discussion at BIS on the Government's Growth Review programme.

Students: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the administrative costs of *(a)* annual uprating and *(b)* five-yearly uprating of the earnings threshold for graduate repayments of student loans; and if he will make a statement. [32599]

Mr Willetts: High level indicative costs for proposed higher education reforms are included in an interim impact assessment, which has been published and is available on BIS's website at:

> http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/higher-education/docs/i/10-1309-interim-impact-assessment-he-funding-and-student-finance.pdf

More detailed costs are currently being assessed, however, the Student Loans Company and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, who administer income contingent repayments of student loans, have indicated that the costs of uprating the earnings thresholds for graduate repayments of student loans both on an annual and five-yearly basis are not expected to be significant, and relate mainly to the updating of the relevant information, advice and guidance for employers and graduates.

These costs will be incurred more regularly by uprating annually but this approach is fairer to graduates and is an important element of a progressive system of repayments of student loans.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Construction

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social housing units have been built in *(a)* Stafford constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire in each year since 1997; and how many social housing units his Department estimates will be built in each such area in each of the next two years. [32837]

Andrew Stunell: The available information, showing the number of new build affordable homes delivered for each local authority district in Staffordshire, is provided in the table. This information is not collected by parliamentary constituency.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new build completions as supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2009-10, for example, a total of 790 affordable homes were provided in Staffordshire through new building, acquisition and refurbishment.

The Department does not forecast levels of future house building as delivery will be determined by local housing plans.

New build affordable homes supplied by local authority district in Staffordshire

	Cannock Chase	*East Staffordshire*	*Lichfield*	*Newcastle-under-Lyme*	*South Staffordshire*	*Stafford*	*Staffordshire Moorlands*	*Tamworth*	*Total*
1997-98	60	70	20	50	40	*	20	10	270
1998-99	20	40	60	20	60	10	10	80	290
1999-2000	20	20	60	60	70	10	40	40	320
2000-01	70	*	30	10	60	100	*	110	390
2001-02	30	10	90	20	20	30	10	40	240
2002-03	10	20	90	10	20	30	10	40	230
2003-04	*	10	150	20	10	130	30	10	350
2004-05	60	30	100	20	10	260	60	90	630
2005-06	40	30	120	10	20	120	20	*	350
2006-07	40	90	10	*	10	50	*	10	220
2007-08	90	60	90	*	40	70	10	20	390
2008-09	60	20	50	80	90	60	*	*	370
2009-10	110	90	170	80	70	40	20	90	670

"*" indicates less than 5.

Note:

Figures rounded to nearest 10 homes therefore the county total shown may differ from the sum of the districts.

Source:

Homes and Communities Agency; Local authorities

Bus Services: Concessions

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons Devon county council received 42 per cent. less in formula grant for concessionary travel for 2011-12 than it did for 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [33854]

Robert Neill: Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant i.e authorities are free to spend it on any service. For this reason, and due to the method of calculating formula grant, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for any particular service, including concessionary travel.

Coalfields Regeneration Review

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the findings and recommendations of the Coalfields Regeneration Review Board; what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust; what funding for coalfield regeneration he plans to allocate to the North Staffordshire Coalfield area in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [33086]

Andrew Stunell: Government are considering the findings and recommendations made in the Coalfields Regeneration Review Report, and aim to respond formally to the report shortly.

A full copy of the report is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/regeneration/reviewcoalfieldsregeneration

We are currently considering detailed business cases for all programmes, before decisions are made on priorities following the spending review settlement for the Department. This includes a comprehensive business case for the continuation of dedicated funding for coalfields areas, which includes evidence on the performance of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

We are due to finalise priorities shortly, and will make an announcement about funding for the Coalfields Regeneration Trust as part of this.

As I indicated in the adjournment debate on 26 October 2010, we intend to provide the support needed to enable the contractually committed, physical regeneration projects in the Homes and Communities Agency national coalfields programme to come to fruition. Based on current forecasts, the Homes and Communities Agency plans to spend £750,000 on committed coalfields projects in the North Staffordshire Coalfield area in 2011-12. In addition, funding is available to support the growth of businesses and encourage entrepreneurship in coalfields areas through the Coalfields Enterprise Funds.

Community Development: Finance

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 972-3W, on community development: finance, what progress has been made on assisting the completion of existing commitments which have already received approval under the Community Builders Programme but cannot in practice be completed by 31 March 2011. [29163]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 7 December 2010]*: Communitybuilders is a £70 million investment fund which provides loans and grants to improve the sustainability of neighbourhood community-led organisations. The programme is being delivered by a consortium led by the Adventure Capital fund which is responsible for day-to-day operation of the fund and for individual investment decisions. The Adventure Capital Fund provides support and regularly reviews progress individually with organisations who have received an offer from the Communitybuilders programme.

We have been considering options to maximise the flexibility of the fund and secure the best value for money. We are actively considering an endowment approach. This will first involve resolving any legal and procurement issues. Consultations will then begin with the Adventure Capital Fund.

Departmental Christmas Cards

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on Christmas cards sent by Ministers in his Department in 2010. [32087]

Robert Neill: In 2009, the Department spent £2,855 of taxpayers' money on Christmas cards. In December 2010 the departmental Christmas card was produced at no cost to the taxpayer and was sent electronically. Recognising the need to look after the vulnerable at this time of year, we also supported the homeless charity Shelter in the card.

Fire Services: East of England

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who owns the proposed East of England Regional Fire Control Centre; what his Department's contractual obligations are with respect to the building; what plans he has for the future of that building; and if he will make a statement. [32800]

Robert Neill: The East of England building is owned by Control Centre Partnerships Ltd. The Department is responsible for paying the rent and estate charges, and for maintaining the building in accordance with the lease.

Over the next few weeks we intend to identify the legacy assets from the project that can be used for the benefit of Fire and Rescue Services and local communities in the future. As part of this, the Department will be talking to representatives of all Fire and Rescue Authorities about the future use of the control centre buildings.

On 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 64-65WS, a written ministerial statement which launched a consultation on the future of control services in England, which will be engaging the fire and rescue sector, was made and it is available in the Library of the House.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated cost of completion was of the East of England Regional Fire Control Centre *(a)* at the commencement of the project and *(b)* in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much his Department has spent on that project to date. [32801]

Robert Neill: The cost of construction and installation of the control centres was borne by the developers as the buildings were procured through a private developer scheme. The Department is responsible for paying the rent and estate charges, and for maintaining the building in accordance with the lease. The estimated accumulated total in rent and running costs payable by the Department for the East of England Control Centre to the end of December 2010 is £3.6 million.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the planned date for the opening of the East of England Regional Fire Control Centre was *(a)* at the commencement of the project and *(b)* prior to his announcement not to proceed with the project. [32802]

Robert Neill: The first published date for when calls were expected to be taken at the East of England Control Centre was October 2011. At the time of the December 2010 announcement the published date was November 2011.

Fire Services: Essex

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will provide the finance to enable Essex Fire and Rescue Service to transfer its control centre from its former headquarters to its current headquarters. [32799]

Robert Neill: Essex Fire and Rescue Authority, like all fire and rescue authorities, already receives funding that enables it to fulfil its statutory duties including provision of a control service.

Housing Benefit

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in how many and which broad rental market areas is 80 per cent. of the market rent, as assessed by his Department, in excess of the proposed housing benefit cap. [29229]

Grant Shapps: As set out in my written ministerial statement published on 9 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 31-34WS, our new delivery model for affordable housing will offer housing associations flexibility to charge rents higher than social rent and at a maximum of 80% of local market rents.

A housing association's calculation of the market rent would need to be based on a residential lettings estimate for a property of the appropriate size, condition and area. Valuations should be in accordance with a Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors recognised method. We anticipate that landlords nonetheless have regard to the relevant local housing allowance cap for the broad rental market area in which the property is located and other caps on benefits which are currently being implemented such as the aggregate benefit cap. It should be noted that 80% of market rent is a maximum, not a fixed requirement. So it would be open to housing associations to offer a rent at less than 80% of market rates if that best suited local circumstances, including for example if the benefits cap limited the ability of tenants to pay the maximum level of rent in some areas.

A broad rental market area is the area used to set local housing allowance. It is an area within which a person could reasonably be expected to live having regard to facilities and services for the purposes of health, education, recreation, personal banking and shopping, taking account of the distance of travel, by public and private transport, to and from those facilities and services. The range of rents and how they are dispersed within a broad rental market area depends on the profile of the area itself. In practice, a broad rental market area may include a diverse range of micro-markets with differing rental values, all influenced by the access to facilities and services but equally influenced by very local factors.

There are 152 broad rental market areas in England and each broad rental market area typically contains three to four local authorities. Information on median rents as at December 2010 for broad rental market areas in England is published by the Valuation Office Agency and is available from the following link. The median represents the "average" rent but in practice there will be variation in rent levels within broad rental market areas.

http://www.voa.gov.uk/LHADirect/Documents/LHA_percentile_rates_Dec_2010.html

The above link also contains information on what the proposed lower local housing allowance rates would be if based on the 30th percentile of rents as at December 2010 and taking into account the new upper limits for each property size.

Given broad rental market areas are so large in size, the median rental figures will mask a very significant variation in rents. Even within a local authority area, market rents will vary street by street, ward by ward. The median, by definition, represents the statistical mid-point across a range of figures, both low and high. In this context it is potentially misleading to make assumptions about the availability of private rented properties, the implications of the upper limits on local housing allowance rates, and the scope for housing associations to charge 80% of market rents based on broad market rental area data covering such wide areas.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the former hon. Member for Swindon South of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1518-9W, on housing revenue accounts, what the *(a)* amounts distributed to authorities in deficit, *(b)* amounts contributed by authorities in surplus and *(c)* net expenditure by the Exchequer were in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10. [32636]

Andrew Stunell: The overall surpluses, deficits and the net Housing Revenue Account Subsidy position, are given in the following table:

Housing revenue account subsidy 2006-07 to 2009-10

£

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Total surpluses (receipts)	-590,725,464	-613,702,090	-765,932,668	-687,317,344
Total deficits (payments)	720,697,416	668,246,757	500,222,937	574,134,156
Net HRA Subsidy	129,971,952	54,544,667	-265,709,731	-113,183,188

Note:

All assumed surpluses are captured and transferred to the Exchequer. Payments to authorities in deficit are not dependent on the amounts received from those in surplus.

Measures have been published in the Localism Bill to reform the HRA finance regime and replace housing revenue account subsidy with a system of self-financing for local housing authorities.

Private and Social Rented Housing: Rents

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the average weekly rent in the private rented sector in each region in the latest period for which figures are available; [31492]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average weekly registered social landlord rent in each region in the latest period for which figures are available; [31493]

(3) what estimate he has made of the annual change in average registered social landlord weekly rent in each region in each of the last 10 years; [31494]

(4) what the annual change in average weekly rents in the private rented sector was in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(d)* the East Midlands, *(e)* the West Midlands, *(f)* the East, *(g)* London, *(h)* the South East and *(i)* the South West in each of the last 10 years; [31676]

(5) what the annual change in average local authority weekly rent has been in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(d)* the

East Midlands, *(e)* the West Midlands, *(f)* the East, *(g)* London, *(h)* the South East and *(i)* the South West in each of the last 10 years; [31677]

(6) what the average local authority weekly rent is in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(d)* the East Midlands, *(e)* the West Midlands, *(f)* the East, *(g)* London, *(h)* the South East and *(i)* the South West. [31678]

Grant Shapps: The Survey of English Housing provides information on regional level market rents for privately-owned properties. The results are based on a two year average due to sample size issues. The most recent regional level estimates are an average for 2006-07 and 2007-08, available from:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141656.xls

Average weekly rent in the private rented sector

	2006-07 and 2007-08 combined (£ per week)
North East	96
North West	95
Yorkshire and the Humber	89
East Midlands	97
West Midlands	102
East	126
London	208
South East	145
South West	117

Source:
Survey of English Housing

The annual percentage change in average weekly rents in the private rented sector in each of the last 10 years was as follows:

Percentage

	Combined									
	1997-98 and 1998-99	1998-99 and 1999-2000	1999-2000 and 2000-01	2000-01 and 2001-02	2001-02 and 2002-03	2002-03 and 2003-04	2003-04 and 2004-05	2004-05 and 2005-06	2005-06 and 2006-07	2006-07 and 2007-08
North East	-2	-6	7	17	3	1	4	-1	12	16
North West	4	14	0	1	3	2	3	3	6	4
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	6	0	4	10	8	7	-4	-4	13
East Midlands	14	0	-8	16	10	2	2	4	5	4
West Midlands	-8	0	13	8	4	4	0	4	7	7
East	1	1	8	5	2	7	11	8	3	0
London	6	5	2	9	14	1	-6	3	6	7
South East	4	1	7	10	13	0	-4	4	4	2
South West	7	5	2	9	4	1	6	5	5	2

Source:
Survey of English Housing, percentage change reflect change on previous year

Information on average weekly rents for registered social landlord dwelling units is available for general needs self-contained units owned and/or managed by registered social landlords. Information is collected on the Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR) survey by the Tenants Services Authority. The average weekly rent as at 31 March each year from 1997 to 2010 in each region is published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website in Table 703. The link for this table is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141440.xls

Average weekly rents for local authority dwelling units are collected from Housing Revenue Account subsidy forms. The average weekly rent as at 31 March each year from 1998-99 to 2010-11 in each statistical region is published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website in Table 701. The link for this table is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1777599.xls

The following tables show the annual change in average local authority and registered social landlord weekly rent.

Annual percentage changes in registered social landlord average weekly rents, by statistical region

Percentage

	At 31 March									
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
North East	2.4	1.5	2.4	3.1	5.5	5.7	2.7	4.2	5.8	5.7
North West	1.4	5.8	1.9	3.4	5.8	3.6	4.4	4.6	4.6	5.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	-1.4	3.7	-0.4	2.8	1.3	5.5	1.7	5.9	6.9	5.3
East Midlands	1.8	1.2	2.4	2.7	6.6	5.3	4.2	4.5	4.7	6.6
West Midlands	-0.1	4.7	1.8	3.2	5.9	4.8	4.3	5.9	5.5	6.4
East	2.7	3.1	2.6	2.6	5.0	4.1	4.0	5.0	5.5	6.5
London	2.2	4.2	3.4	3.5	6.9	4.6	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.3

Annual percentage changes in registered social landlord average weekly rents, by statistical region

Percentage

	At 31 March:									
	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
South East	2.1	4.0	2.6	2.0	7.0	4.7	3.6	4.2	4.9	5.8
South West	1.9	4.2	2.7	2.3	6.3	4.1	3.4	5.0	4.7	3.2

Notes:

1. Data are collected by the Tenant Services Authority via the annual Regulatory and Statistical Return based on general needs stock only.
2. Figures are based on only the larger registered social landlords completing the long form. Up until 2006 the threshold for completing the long form was that the registered social landlord owned/managed at least 250 units/bedspaces. From 2007 this increased to 1,000 units/bedspaces.
3. Averages are calculated for self-contained units only.

Annual percentage changes in local authority average weekly rents by statistical region, England

Percentage

	2001-02 to 2002-03	*2002-03 to 2003-04*	*2003-04 to 2004-05*	*2004-05 to 2005-06*	*2005-06 to 2006-07*	*2006-07 to 2007-08*	*2007-08 to 2008-09*	*2008-09 to 2009-10*	*2009-10 to 2010-11*[1]
North East	2.7	1.2	3.5	4.8	5.0	6.8	4.0	2.9	3.3
North West	3.7	1.5	1.6	3.6	3.7	5.5	3.8	2.8	2.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	5.7	1.9	4.0	4.2	4.9	7.2	4.1	3.3	2.3
East Midlands	5.3	1.8	3.4	5.1	4.4	6.5	4.4	2.6	2.6
West Midlands	4.5	1.6	3.9	4.7	4.9	5.9	3.9	3.2	2.9
East	3.9	1.2	4.7	4.9	4.4	7.6	3.2	1.9	2.0
London	3.7	0.7	2.3	4.5	4.6	5.5	3.8	3.4	1.2
South East	4.4	2.2	3.2	3.7	3.8	6.1	4.3	3.0	1.6
South West	3.6	0.7	3.2	3.1	3.9	5.9	4.2	3.8	1.8

[1] Provisional.

Notes:

1 Rents data are based on the financial year. Stock figures used to estimate the average for each region are taken at 1 April of the following financial year.

2. Average rents data for between 2003-04 and 2007-08 inclusively are estimated using total stock figures from Housing Revenue Account audited base claim form. Before 2003-04 the average rents data are estimated using total stock figures from the Housing Revenue Account second subsidy claim form.

3. Some local authorities may have supplied net rents excluding service charges from 2003-04 onwards. Prior to 2003-04 some local authorities may have been including service charges in their rent figures.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of the use of chartered aircraft to transport service personnel from Afghanistan to the UK in each of the last two months. [33441]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) charters aircraft to move personnel to and from the middle east. Personnel are then transported to Afghanistan on military transport, usually C17 or occasionally C130 aircraft. Chartered aircraft do not fly to Afghanistan for force protection reasons.

The estimated cost of chartering aircraft to transport service personnel to and from the middle east for onward transmission by RAF flights to and from Afghanistan was around £3.4 million for November 2010, and around £1.9 million for December 2010. As we charter the aircraft on a return flight basis, it is not possible to cost just the return half.

The figures are inclusive of aviation fuel, duties and taxes and represent our best estimates of costs, as the vast majority of final invoices have yet to be presented.

Costs for flights for operations are borne by the contingency fund and not the MOD budget.

Armed Forces: Private Education

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West (Mike Crockart)of 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 391W, on the armed forces: private education, what proportion of serving service personnel in receipt of the continuity of education allowance are serving overseas; [33322]

(2) to how many schools his Department pays school fees for serving personnel; what the name and location of each is; and how much was paid to each in the latest period for which figures are available. [33451]

Nick Harvey: The purpose of continuity of education allowance is to allow the children of service personnel to achieve a stable education against a background of parental postings both at home, and overseas.

As at autumn term 2010, 15% of service personnel in receipt of continuity of education allowance were serving overseas.

Accurate details broken down according to specific educational establishments are not held.

Defence: Procurement

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to provide a redacted copy of the contract for the Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft

Carrier Project and the BAE Systems Surface Ships Terms of Business Agreement for consideration by the Committee of Public Accounts; and if he will make a statement. [33035]

Peter Luff: Redacted copies of the Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carrier contracts and the BAE Systems Surface Ships Terms of Business Agreement have been provided to the House of Commons Liaison Committee, Treasury Committee and the Public Accounts Committee.

These documents are already in the public domain and on the Ministry of Defence (MOD) website through publication of the MOD's Freedom of Information Disclosure Log, available at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/DisclosureLog/ReviewOfTheQueenElizabethClassAircraftCarrierContracts.htm

Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency plans his Department has put in place to maintain airbridges in the case of the A330 Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft not being delivered on time. [33444]

Peter Luff: The Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) Programme is on schedule with the first two A330 aircraft converted to the tanking role. These aircraft have begun flight trials and their certification and qualification flight programme. The new facilities being provided by AirTanker are ahead of schedule in readiness for the delivery of the first aircraft in late 2011.

In the unlikely event of a delay to FSTA delivery, we would plan to extend the use of existing assets or else make greater use of civil charter.

Met Office

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Met Office has received representations on the quality of its advice from customers who subscribe to its services in the last 12 months. [33050]

Mr Robathan: The Met Office both seeks feedback from its customers and users, and receives unprompted comments and representations. Overall the feedback the Met Office receives is significantly more positive than otherwise.

During the recent cold spell positive feedback has been received from both paying customers like the aviation industry who found Met Office forecasts accurate and helpful, and similarly from the public, who found the severe weather warnings both useful and accurate. Nine out of 10 people said they found the Met Office's severe weather warnings useful.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what forecasts for the winter of 2010 the Met Office sent to Government Departments and local authorities for planning purposes in September and October 2010. [33131]

Mr Robathan: The Met Office provides the Government with rolling three month long range forecasts on a monthly basis for planning purposes, each updating the previous one. Additionally, for the public, the Met Office provides short range forecasts out to five days ahead, as well as forecasts for six to 15 days and 16 to 30 days ahead. This winter, the Met Office's 30 day forecasts accurately highlighted the cold weather in late November and through December and its day to day forecasts and warnings have been widely recognised as providing consistently good advice through the exceptionally cold weather, both to the public and emergency responders.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the availability rate was of each TriStar aircraft in each of the last 12 months. [33442]

Nick Harvey: The available information is shown in the following table. The figures represent the average number of airframes from each TriStar variant available in the forward fleet during each month of 2010. The forward fleet comprises aircraft which are serviceable and those which are short-term unserviceable.

TriStar forward fleet

	C2	*KC1*	*K1*
January	2	2.9	0
February	1.9	2.5	0
March	1.9	2.9	0.5
April	2	3.3	1
May	1	3.8	0.7
June	1	3.8	0.9
July	0.8	3.9	1
August	1	4	1
September	1	4	1
October	1	4	0
November	1.4	2.8	0.7
December	1.6	2.3	1

I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the grounding of the TriStar fleet to be lifted; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the grounding of the TriStar fleet on air-to-air refuelling operations. [33443]

Peter Luff: The TriStar fleet has not been grounded. Flying was temporarily suspended on 17 December 2010 in order to enable engineering checks to be undertaken following the identification of a technical issue with the fleet. Following engineering checks, the first TriStar returned to service on 23 December 2010 and, subject to any rectification work, aircraft continue to return to service. As a result of these engineering checks three programmed air to air refuelling sorties were cancelled between 17 and 31 December 2010.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of cancelling production of the Nimrod MRA4; and what penalties his Department will incur as a result of such cancellation. [33008]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 450W, to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones).

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the future production of the Nimrod MRA4 for commercial sale; and if he will make a statement. [33009]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 748-49W, to the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs Moon).

RAF Kinloss

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the *(a)* redundancy, *(b)* resettlement and *(c)* other costs to his Department in the five-year period following the closure of RAF Kinloss consequent upon that closure. [33010]

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under what budget headings the proposed cost savings of the decision to cancel the Nimrod MRA4 programme will be made. [33074]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) made estimates of the costs and savings accrued from measures in the strategic defence and security review for the purposes of formulating policy. It is estimated that not bringing Nimrod MRA4 into service and the RAF vacating Kinloss will save around £2 billion over the next 10 years. Release of further detail may prejudice commercial interests. Furthermore, final savings figures will depend on detailed implementation, which will generally be subject to full consultation with all relevant parties, including the trades unions and the devolved Administrations, as well as the results of mandatory assessments on the impact that the measures will have on sustainability, equality and diversity and health and safety. The MOD is therefore not able to release more detailed figures at this time.

Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to take a decision on signing the search and rescue harmonisation contract with Soteria. [33463]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) on 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 133WS.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on external consultants as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [31463]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 20 December 2010]*: The Ministry of Defence spent around £75,000 on external consultants as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, principally in support of the development of costing models.

The Department also incurred expenditure on external assistance and technical consultancy for the Trident value for money review as set out in the answer I gave on 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 449W, to the hon. Member for Newport West (Paul Flynn) and the right hon. Member for Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth).

EDUCATION

CAFCASS: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the likely effects on service delivery in 2011-12 of changes in the budget of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service. [30717]

Tim Loughton: I have discussed with the chief executive of CAFCASS his plans to continue to deliver a service within the available budget. Officials in the Department have worked closely with their counterparts in CAFCASS to ensure that plans are realistic, deliverable and that they enable CAFCASS to meet its statutory duties.

The additional £10 million invested by the Department in CAFCASS in the current financial year has enabled it to develop more streamlined and efficient working practices; I am confident that, as a result, the organisation is better placed to meet the challenges of the current financial climate.

Children's Centres

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education in respect of how many Sure Start centres each local authority has announced its plans for *(a)* closure and *(b)* termination of development at phase (i) three and (ii) four. [26332]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 25 November 2010]*: Children's centres are at the heart of the Government's vision for supporting families with young children and intervening early to prevent problems from becoming crises. That is why the recent spending review announced that there is funding available to maintain the current network of children's centres.

The Department for Education does not collect data on local authority plans for closure or termination of development of children's centres. However local authorities have duties under the Childcare Act 2006 to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing Sure Start children's centres and to secure sufficient children's centres provision to meet local need.

Departmental Written Questions

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many written questions tabled for answer on a named day each Minister in his Department has answered since 11 May 2010. [29706]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 9 December 2010]*: The information requested is in the following table:

Minister	*Named day questions answered since 11 May 2010*
Nick Gibb	323
Sarah Teather	57
Tim Loughton	63
Total	443

Disabled Students' Allowances

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will review the time taken to process claims for disabled students' allowances. [32637]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

The application process for disabled students' allowances (DSAs) has several stages involving a number of parties. On receipt of a DSA application form, the Student Loans Company (SLC) will assess the student's eligibility for DSAs and, if the student is eligible, authorise an assessment of their course-related needs at an independent assessment centre. On receipt of a report from the assessment centre, the SLC will write to the student telling them what equipment and other support can be paid for from the DSAs.

This Department has provided the SLC with additional resources to speed up the processing of DSA applications for the academic year (AY) 2010/11 and set shorter target times for completing the two stages of the process for which it is responsible. Last year (AY 2009/10) the SLC's target was to assess eligibility within 15 working days of receipt of the DSA application form and decide what support can be paid for from the DSAs within 15 working days of receipt of the needs assessment report, for 95% of applications. This year (2010/11) the SLC is required to complete each of these stages within 10 working days, in 95% of cases. In November 2010, the latest month for which there is complete data, the SLC was achieving the target level for 94.3% of applications for the first stage and 87.5% of applications for the second stage.

In consultation with stakeholders—through a stakeholder forum which includes representatives from a range of disability organisations as well as higher education institutions and needs assessment centres—SLC has streamlined its processes for dealing with DSA applications, including:

an increase in the number of staff allocated to this work, with better training and quality assurance to ensure consistency in the service provided to customers;

better forecasting and daily management of all parts of the process, allowing SLC to pro-actively manage resources to match the flow of applications;

SLC proactively contacting needs assessment centres to follow up applications and assess processing levels; and

disability awareness training for both advisers and processing staff.

These measures have contributed to improved processing times for the overall process from receipt of the application to payment. We recognise that there is still more to do and the SLC continues to work with partners and stakeholders to improve the service for disabled students.

Educational Psychology

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has for the future provision of educational psychology training. [22422]

Sarah Teather: I am very pleased to report that following our spending review I have been able to secure the funding to meet the costs of completing the cohorts of educational psychologists currently in training, and for one further cohort due to begin training in September 2011. However, the current funding scheme is not sustainable. I will take advantage of the opportunity presented by the Green Paper on special educational needs and disabilities to consider options for placing the training of educational psychologists on a more secure footing.

Extracurricular Activities: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many primary schools in *(a)* West Ham constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Newham provide extended out-of-hours provision. [28913]

Sarah Teather: Data on the number of schools providing access to extended services (which can include out of hours provision) are no longer collected centrally. However, the last data supplied by the Training and Development Agency for schools (TDA) in September 2010 showed that all 25 primary schools in the West Ham constituency and all 66 primary schools in the London borough of Newham were providing access to extended services. The TDA's role supporting local authorities on the extended services programme ceased on 30 November.

School Sport Partnerships

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils in Ashfield constituency participated in *(a)* one and *(b)* more than one sport through school sport partnerships in the latest period for which figures are available. [31125]

Tim Loughton: This information is not available in the format requested. However, all maintained schools and academies in England are currently part of the network of school sport partnerships. Partnerships in the Ashfield constituency include 41 schools with a total of around 15,000 pupils on roll.

The results of the most recent PE and sport survey were published in September 2010. These showed that schools in England provided an average of 19 different sports for their pupils. Football was the most frequently provided sport, with 98% of schools providing it for their pupils.

Schools Sport Partnerships

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female students in Warrington North constituency participated in sport through schools sport partnerships in each of the years for which figures are available. [31599]

Tim Loughton: All students of compulsory school age are required to study all subjects of the national curriculum, including physical education, unless they are disapplied from part or all of the national curriculum. All maintained primary and secondary schools in Warrington North constituency are members of school sports partnerships in their area. The table sets out the total number of male and female students on the roll of these schools, from 2005 to 2010.

	Male	*Female*
2005	7,060	6,710
2006	6,830	6,540
2007	6,720	6,380
2008	6,550	6,170
2009	6,410	6,000
2010	6,290	5,910

Notes:

1. Pupil numbers are taken from the annual school census, and have been rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Due to recent parliamentary constituency boundary changes, the figures have been reworked back to 2005; to recreate figures for the earlier years would incur disproportionate cost.

Schools: Sports

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what account he took of data collected in his Department's physical education and sport survey for 2009-10 on *(a)* rates of inter and intra-school competitive sports and *(b)* the number of young people taking part in (i) tennis, (ii) fitness activities, (iii) orienteering, (iv) cycling, (v) golf, (vi) badminton, (vii) table tennis, (viii) rugby league, (ix) canoeing, (x) archery, (xi) martial arts, (xii) rowing and (xiii) multi-skill clubs before making the decision to reduce levels of funding for the School Sports Partnerships programme; and if he will make a statement. [28761]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) took into account all of the findings of the PE and sport survey before making decisions about future funding for PE and sport. This included the findings set out in this question.

As we have said before, the Government acknowledge that school sport partnerships have been successful in raising participation rates in areas targeted by the previous administration. This is a credit to the staff involved. However, it is also true that, in some areas, participation rates dropped, and in other areas they remained static. Not only that, the survey also showed that only two in five pupils takes part in regular competitive sport within their own school, and only one in five plays regularly against other schools. This is after £2.4 billion of funding and seven years of work.

The Secretary of State has now announced that the Department will make a further payment of £47 million to school sport partnerships in February to fund partnerships up to the end of the summer term 2011. He will also make funding available to enable secondary schools to release a qualified PE teacher from timetable for one day each week in 2011/12 and 2012/13 to work with other schools to increase opportunities for competitive sport for our young people.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils participated in *(a)* one and *(b)* more than one sport through school sport partnerships in the latest period for which figures are available. [30329]

Tim Loughton: This information is not available in the format requested. However, the physical education and sport survey report published in September 2010 showed that pupils in years 1 to 11 spent, on average, 123 minutes of curriculum time taking part in PE in a typical school week in 2009/10. However this is not necessarily through a school sports partnership, but rather PE choices in school. In the same year, schools provided an average of 19 types of listed sports, with football being the most popular sport. All maintained schools and academies in England are currently part of the network of school sport partnerships.

Special Educational Needs: Per Capita Costs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his most recent estimate is of his Department's average annual expenditure per student with special educational needs in a mainstream school; and what estimate he has made of the likely level of such expenditure in 2015. [26440]

Sarah Teather: It is not possible to provide the information requested due to the way in which funding is provided to schools through local authorities. Local authorities receive their schools funding through the dedicated schools grant. It is for each local authority to distribute funding to its schools using its locally agreed formula. Local funding formulae determine how much of the schools budget will be retained for core services to children and families and how much will be delegated to schools. It is then for governors and head teachers to determine how much of the total funding delegated to their school will be used to provide SEN services in their school.

There are publicly available data on school funding made to local authorities through the dedicated schools grant: planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with SEN in the 2009-10 financial year was almost £5.2 billion. Of this, £2.1 billion was delegated to mainstream schools, £1.6 billion was delegated to maintained special schools, and £612 million was spent on placing children with SEN statements at independent and non-maintained special schools.

The Schools White Paper 2010 recognises that funding for schools should be fairer and more transparent, enabling schools to meet the needs of their pupils. Extra resources should clearly follow those pupils who might need extra help and support. The White Paper stated that the Government will be consulting on developing and introducing a clear, transparent and fairer national funding formula based on the needs of pupils, to work alongside our recently announced plans for a pupil premium.

Teenage Pregnancy

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department plans to take to *(a)* measure and *(b)* reduce rates of teenage pregnancy following the end of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. [26957]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 29 November 2010]*: Data on under-18 conceptions will continue to be collected and published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on an annual basis and each quarter. The Business Plan of the Department for Education published on 8 November included an impact indicator on reducing teenage pregnancy, based on the under-18 conception rate. This demonstrates the importance which the Government attach to this as a key measurement indicator for showing progress in narrowing equalities and reducing child poverty.

It is important that local areas take action to reduce teenage pregnancy rates and I have asked them to continue giving this priority. Each area knows its local population and is best placed to decide what services to put in place, using the international evidence and lessons from areas where rates have fallen fastest.

That is why we will be giving local authorities greater freedom and flexibility through future funding arrangements from April 2011. The proposed Early Intervention Grant will bring together funding for Sure Start, families with multiple problems and targeted support for vulnerable young people who are at risk of a range of poor outcomes including teenage pregnancy as well as substance misuse and involvement in youth crime.

We have also made clear in the White Paper, 'The Importance of Teaching', published on 24 November, that children need high quality sex and relationships education so they can make wise and informed choices for themselves and that they can benefit enormously from high quality Personal, Social, Heath and Economic (PSHE) education.

Theatre: Concessions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on access to the theatre for young people on low incomes in the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [27457]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 1 December 2010]:* In the Schools White Paper "The Importance of Teaching", published in November, the coalition Government made clear that children should expect to be given a rich menu of cultural experiences. Experience of live theatre performances should be part of that experience. While the Secretary of State for Education has not had specific discussions with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on access for young people on low incomes, these issues are at the heart of what the coalition Government are trying to achieve through a rich menu of cultural experiences.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks and Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on integrating *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug addiction treatment services in the social care system; and what discussions he has had on this matter with ministerial colleagues in the (i) Department for Communities and Local Government and (ii) Cabinet Office. [32810]

Anne Milton: "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health" sets out the vision for the future of commissioning of drug and alcohol services which we propose will be funded from the new public health budget and commissioned by local authorities as part of their new public health role.

In addition, the Drug Strategy 2010: "Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery: Supporting People to live a drug free life" sets out plans to test new approaches by introducing six pilots to explore how payment by results can work for drugs recovery for adults.

Both the development of the drug strategy and the payment by results pilots have involved cross-Government discussions, including discussions at the Public Health Cabinet Sub-Committee.

Copies of both documents have been placed in the Library.

Ambulance Services: Standards

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 719-20W, on ambulance services: standards, when he expects the review of the publication of information on service operational issues in respect of winter pressures to be completed. [32893]

Mr Simon Burns: The review is under way and we anticipate that it will be published by the end of January 2011.

Animal Feed

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has made to the European Commission and his EU counterparts on reviewing regulations to prevent waste from biodiesel production being included in animal feed; and if he will make a statement. [33374]

Anne Milton: We are advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that there is a range of controls in European Union feed legislation to ensure that materials intended for use in animal feed—which may include by-products from biofuel production—do not pose a significant risk to the environment, animal health or the human consumers of animal products. These controls include maximum permitted levels for various contaminants.

The Standing Committee on the Feed Chain and Animal Health in Brussels keeps these controls under review and updates them to ensure they reflect emerging scientific knowledge and experience of their effectiveness in practice. Officials from both the FSA and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs lead for the United Kingdom at these meetings, and will participate in any discussions on proposed revisions of these controls as they relate to by-products from biofuel production.

Arthritis

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance his Department is providing to care commissioners in respect of provision of multi-disciplinary teams for patients with rheumatoid arthritis; and if he will make a statement. [33094]

Paul Burstow: It is for local national health service organisations to recruit and train the staff best placed to serve their local population.

The rounded care model for rheumatoid arthritis is built around a multidisciplinary team approach. Multidisciplinary teams within rheumatology services see some of the functions traditionally carried out by consultant rheumatologists appropriately transferred to other members of the team, such as specialist nurses.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline 79 "The management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults" makes the multidisciplinary team a key priority for implementation.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that patients with rheumatoid arthritis receive the appropriate number of follow-up consultations; and if he will make a statement. [33097]

Paul Burstow: It is for commissioners to ensure that they have commissioned sufficient capacity to allow timely access to first or follow-up appointments. Primary care trusts should be working with local service providers to ensure the correct capacity is available to provide the best evidence based care for their patients.

The Department expects local health communities to be mindful of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance when commissioning services for people with rheumatoid arthritis. A NICE commissioning guide "Services for the diagnosis and management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults" was published in December 2009 to assist commissioners in implementing "NICE Clinical Guideline 79: the management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults locally", including consideration of access to care for people with established rheumatoid arthritis.

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of people infected with *(a)* hepatitis C, *(b)* HIV/AIDS and *(c)* both hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS as a result of receiving contaminated blood or blood products in NHS facilities reside in (i) England, (ii) Wales and (iii) Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [33376]

Anne Milton: There are no data available on either the total number, or the proportion, of individuals infected with HIV and/or hepatitis C by contaminated national health service supplied blood and blood products, who reside in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. The only available data are for the total numbers infected in the United Kingdom who have registered with one of the ex gratia schemes (the Macfarlane Trust, the Eileen Trust or the Skipton Fund). The Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts do not hold data on where each of their claimants was infected. Of the registrants to the Skipton Fund, 3,317 were infected in hospitals in England, 120 in hospitals in Northern Ireland, 636 in hospitals in Scotland, and 226 in hospitals in Wales.

Our best estimate of the total number of individuals who were infected with HIV and hepatitis C are that 4,675 people with haemophilia in the UK were infected with hepatitis C, and published epidemiological estimates suggest that up to 28,043 other individuals might have been similarly infected with hepatitis C by whole blood transfusions in the UK. Over roughly the same period, approximately 1,200 people with haemophilia and 100 other individuals were infected with HIV by NHS-supplied blood products or blood transfusions. Separate figures specifically for AIDS are not collected.

Carers: Kent

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether a recent assessment has been made of the role of *(a)* carers' centres in Chatham and Aylesford constituency and *(b)* voluntary organisations in Kent and Medway in supporting carers; [32496]

(2) what financial assistance his Department provided to *(a)* Medway council, Tonbridge and Malling council, *(b)* Medway Primary Care Trust and *(c)* West Kent Primary Care Trust for the support of carers in the latest period for which figures are available. [32497]

Paul Burstow: A recent review was carried out by Kent county council of all carers services across Kent including the role and service delivery of Maidstone and Malling Carers Project (covering the Aylesford area).

Medway council received £1.039 million in 2010-11 for the carers element of their Area Based Grant. Figures are not available at borough council level for Tonbridge and Malling council. Kent county council (including Tonbridge and Malling) received £6.242 million in 2010-11 for the carers element of their Area Based Grant.

In 2010-11, £100 million was made available within primary care trust (PCT) allocations to enable them to provide breaks for carers. This was not broken down by PCT.

The spending review has made £400 million additional funding available to support the provision of breaks for carers. The new monies will go into PCT budgets from April 2011 and into general practitioner consortium budgets from 2013.

The 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework, published on 15 December 2010, makes clear that PCTs should pool budgets with local authorities to provide carers' breaks, as far as possible, via direct payments or personal health budgets. The Operating Framework also states that local health services will be much more transparent and understandable by local people. For 2011-12, PCTs are required to publish their local plans to deliver both dementia services and services to support carers.

Dementia: Health Services

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was allocated in ring-fenced funding for dementia services in each of the last three years; and how much of that allocation to each primary care trust was unspent in each such year. [32494]

Paul Burstow: No ring-fenced funding was made available.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment has been made of geographical variations in the standard of dementia care; and if he will make a statement. [32495]

Paul Burstow: As part of the National Audit of Dementia, the NHS Information Centre is currently collecting information on the Department's behalf on dementia services throughout England. The results from this exercise are expected in the spring of 2011.

In addition, at the end of September we published a new dementia outcomes-focused Implementation Plan. This set out the Department's priority objectives for improving the care of those with dementia including a focus on early diagnosis and intervention for all, improved quality of care in general hospitals, living well with dementia in care homes and reducing the use of antipsychotic medication to treat people with dementia. Managers and clinicians who provide local services need to account for the quality and standards of care for people with dementia and will be held to account for these services locally.

In support of the Implementation Plan a National Dementia Declaration was jointly launched in October by the Government and the Alzheimer's Society. This brings together a range of bodies, each setting out what they plan to do to support the implementation of the strategy. The Department is also developing a commissioning pack to provide guidance for primary care trusts (PCTs) and local authorities on how best to commission dementia services.

The revised NHS Operating Framework for 2010-11 introduced a requirement for PCTs to publish locally how they deliver services for people with dementia, building on the work of the National Dementia Strategy. This requirement continues to apply under the terms of the NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12, which also spells out that national health service organisations are expected to make progress on implementing the National Dementia Strategy, including the four priority areas as set out in the implementation plan published in September 2010:

good quality early diagnosis and intervention for all;

improved quality of care in general hospitals;

living well with dementia in care homes; and

reduced use of antipsychotic medication.

In implementing the strategy, PCTs and NHS trusts also need to take account of the findings of the report from the national confidential inquiry into patient outcome and death 'An Age Old Problem: A review of the care received by elderly patients undergoing Surgery', published in November 2010. The report identifies shortcomings in the care of older people and suggests how services can be improved.

Eggs: Contamination

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that food products made with contaminated egg do not enter the UK food chain; and if he will make a statement. [33457]

Anne Milton: We are advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), which has responsibility for policy on food safety, that general food law places the onus on food businesses to ensure that all of their ingredients and products are safe and compliant with any relevant legislation. In light of the recent dioxin contamination incident originating in Germany, the FSA has taken the opportunity to remind food businesses again of their obligations with regard to food safety.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* advice and *(b)* information he received from the Food Standards Agency on the entry into the UK food chain of food products made with contaminated egg; and if he will make a statement. [33458]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) notified the Department on 5 January 2010 that German eggs sent to the Netherlands for processing were potentially contaminated with dioxins. On 6 January we were informed that potentially contaminated pasteurised liquid whole egg had entered the United Kingdom food chain via the Netherlands and investigations were under way to trace any products manufactured in the UK using the liquid egg. On 7 January, the FSA provided further information to the effect that a risk assessment based on a worst case scenario indicated that there was no food safety risk associated with the consumption of products manufactured using the suspect liquid egg, most of which were of short shelf life and would already have been consumed. The FSA also informed the Department that some retailers had taken the decision to voluntarily remove any remaining implicated products from their shelves.

HIV Infection

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether HIV treatment will be commissioned at national or GP consortium level under his proposals for NHS commissioning structures. [32451]

Anne Milton: On 21 December 2010, we published "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health", a copy of which is available in the Library. The aim of this consultation, which closes on 31 March, is to ensure that the Department gets details of the new public health system right while also delivering significant improvements to the health of the population. The document proposes that the NHS Commissioning Board will commission HIV treatment. The detail of how this would be implemented in practice, will be considered on completion of the consultation.

Influenza

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many meetings he had to discuss the NHS's planning and preparation for winter influenza in each month since May 2010; [33526]

(2) how many meetings the acting chief medical officer had to discuss the NHS's preparations for winter influenza in each month since May 2010. [33536]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State for Health and his Ministers have had on going meetings about influenza throughout the months since May 2010. The same goes for the interim chief medical officer (CMO).

It should be noted that Ministers and the interim CMO would have received and responded to—and in the case of the interim CMO provided—a considerable amount of written advice in the months in question, often without necessitating meetings in person.

Influenza: Vaccination

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with pharmacy companies on the provision of private flu vaccinations to children under the age of 16 years. [33320]

Anne Milton: Departmental officials have been in regular contact with pharmacy representative organisations in relation to seasonal flu. This has been part of our approach to ensuring patients have access to the antiviral medicines they may need.

Vaccination in pharmacies has arisen in those discussions, including for children. Community pharmacies typically provide flu vaccinations under a patient group direction (PGD). This allows a prescription only medicine to be supplied or administered without a prescription from a doctor. There are rigorous governance procedures that must be used when a PGD is developed. The PGD can be used only by named, registered health care professionals trained to use it and within criteria set by those developing it, such as any age restriction.

Where vaccination is a private transaction, it is for pharmacy companies to set eligibility criteria, such as age, for example reflecting their staff training. Where a PGD is used in pharmacies within the same organisation and outside of the national health service, the organisation must be registered with the Care Quality Commission.

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to extend free NHS flu vaccinations to children under the age of five years. [33321]

Anne Milton: The Government's policy on flu vaccination is informed by the expert advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). In their statement of 23 July 2010, JCVI recommended that only those children with clinical conditions which put them more at risk from the effects of flu should be offered the vaccine.

JCVI does not recommend that children under the age of five outside the at-risk groups should be vaccinated. JCVI met on 30 December to review the latest evidence on this issue. The JCVI chairman subsequently assured me that this advice remains appropriate, and recommended that efforts be focused on maximising vaccine uptake among all those in the risk groups. As with all vaccination programmes, JCVI will keep this matter under review.

Lyme Disease

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake a review of the effectiveness of methods of collecting data on cases of Lyme disease. [33207]

Anne Milton: There are no plans to review the effectiveness of data collection methods in respect of Lyme disease. Borrelia spp, the causative agent of Lyme disease, was included as a notifiable causative agent in the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, and all laboratory isolations of Borrelia spp in a human sample must now be notified to the Health Protection Agency. It is anticipated that this will capture all cases of laboratory confirmed Lyme disease, particularly all cases where infection has manifested as illness.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to reply to the letter of 6 December 2010 from the hon. Member for Walsall North on a constituent. [33462]

Paul Burstow: A reply was issued to the hon. Member on 11 January 2011.

NHS

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meetings he had to discuss the Government's proposals for GP commissioning and the NHS White Paper in each month since May 2010. [33527]

Mr Simon Burns: Ministers regularly meet with officials and external stakeholders to discuss the Government's national health service reform programme. We have had very frequent meetings to discuss both our proposals for commissioning and the NHS White Paper since May 2010.

NHS: Standards

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that clinical standards are maintained after the removal of the 18-week waiting time target; and if he will make a statement. [33096]

Mr Simon Burns: The reforms set out in "Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps" published on 21 December 2010 will change the focus from measurement of narrow processes to one that focuses on outcomes for patients. The reforms will ensure that patients are at the heart of decisions made in the national health service and that the NHS will continue to drive up quality and maintain standards for patients.

During 2011-12, commissioners should ensure that waiting times do not deteriorate and where possible improve. This will be delivered through the continued publication of waiting times data, patient choice, standards in contracts, and competition between services.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 126W, on prescriptions: fees and charges, when he plans to *(a)* look at options for creating a fairer system of prescription charges and exemptions in England and *(b)* announce proposals arising from such consideration; [32625]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 126W, on prescriptions: fees and charges, what options he plans to consider when looking at the creation of a fairer system of prescription charges and exemptions; [32626]

(3) what plans he has for the level of the income threshold for passported entitlement to free prescriptions under his plans for welfare reform; and what estimate he has made of the number of people who will lose their entitlement. [32624]

Mr Simon Burns: We are continuing to look at options for reforming the current prescription charging arrangements in England. In particular, we are examining the implications of the introduction of universal credit in relation to those current benefits that entitle the recipient of that benefit to free prescriptions. We are also considering the implications of state pension age changes. We will make announcements about how these changes will be implemented in due course.

Public Health England

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meetings the acting chief medical officer had to discuss the Government's plans for Public Health England in each month since May 2010. [33535]

Anne Milton: The interim chief medical officer has attended numerous meetings over the months since May 2010 about public health with Ministers, external stakeholders, officials and regional directors of public health at which the development of Public Health England has been discussed.

Suicide Prevention Strategy

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to launch the new suicide prevention strategy; and if he will make a statement. [33439]

Paul Burstow: It is currently our intention to publish the new suicide prevention strategy during the spring of this year.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Asbestos

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire North (Jim Sheridan) of 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 874, whether his Department provides funding to projects which encourage developing countries to import asbestos from Canada to manage their waste appropriately. [32416]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not provide funding to projects that encourage developing countries to import asbestos, from any country or for any purpose. The UK Government are opposed to the use of asbestos anywhere, and would deplore its supply to developing countries. We are not aware that DFID funds have been spent on asbestos products, and we would take urgent action should we be so advised.

Haiti: Politics and Government

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Haiti; and if he will make a statement. [33378]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has done much to meet urgent needs in Haiti, providing support immediately after the earthquake and again in December 2010. This has helped to reach a million people with food, shelter, clean water and medical care and 200,000 people with cholera treatment and prevention. The UK continues to support Haiti through its contributions to agencies like the UN and World Bank, who are best placed to lead efforts on the ground. Our share of their commitments already amounts to more than $170 million in 2010-11.

Haiti continues to face difficult humanitarian challenges exacerbated by the subsequent cholera epidemic following the disastrous earthquake a year ago. Shelter and sanitation are the most pressing needs.

According to the latest United Nations figures, the number of people remaining in camps has fallen from 1.5 million last July to 800,000 in January. Of those 700,000 people leaving the camps, 100,000 have been re-housed in temporary accommodation. Others have returned to their former homes, with some continuing to camp outside their homes where they are too badly damaged. 95% of children in affected areas who were in school before the earthquake have now returned to school. As of 7 January, the Haitian Ministry of Health has reported 3,759 deaths through cholera and 181,829 cases nationwide. The latest United Nations analysis suggests that the epidemic is stabilising in some parts of Haiti but rural areas are still suffering increasing infection rates.

International Violence Against Women Champion

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to assign staff in his Department to support the international violence against women champion. [33455]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: One member of staff in my Department is responsible for co-ordinating the Department for International Development's (DFID's) support for the ministerial champion for tackling violence against women and girls overseas. DFID officials will support the development and implementation of the champion's work programme.

Ivory Coast: Politics and Government

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in the Ivory Coast; and if he will make a statement. [33330]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Recent assessments by the United Nations in Ivory Coast suggest that the humanitarian situation is largely under control with critical humanitarian needs being met, both in Ivory Coast itself and in the surrounding countries.

The total number of persons who have fled the country as a result of the recent unrest is now estimated by the United Nations to be approximately 25,000. The majority of displaced people are seeking refuge in neighbouring Liberia and 16,000 internally displaced people remain within Ivory Coast.

However, should the political situation deteriorate further and large scale displacement and violence occur, this will require a much more substantial humanitarian response. The United Nations is preparing for this scenario and is developing an emergency humanitarian action plan for Ivory Coast and neighbouring countries.

The Department for International Development (DFID) will continue to monitor the situation closely to check that needs are being met as effectively and efficiently as possible.

TREASURY

Banks

Dr Huppert: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on support for independent banking businesses serving local communities. [33239]

Mr Hoban: The Government believe that it is important for independent banking businesses to serve the needs of their local communities, and welcome the efforts of banking businesses to do so. However, decisions about how to serve their local communities are a commercial matter for the independent organisations involved.

Economics of Climate Change Review

Mr Lilley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change. [33168]

Justine Greening: The cost to Government of the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change was £1,272,000 including staff costs, accommodation, travel, research and the publication of the final report. This figure does not include the costs of any analysis and research carried out by other Government Departments to support the review, nor does it include the cost of any follow-up work, as these figures are not centrally held.

Individual Savings Accounts

James Wharton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has plans to allow Alternative Investment Market listed stocks to be held in individual savings accounts. [33426]

Mr Hoban: ISAs are the Government's main non-pensions savings incentive, and are held by 20 million adults. The Government believe that ISAs are a trusted brand, and that it is important that this is maintained. The Government also believe that ISAs should be mainstream savings products. The Government therefore do not intend to allow shares listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM)—which can be riskier and less liquid—to be qualifying investments for ISAs. It is already the case that companies listed on AIM may benefit from other incentive schemes, such as investments made through the Enterprise Investment Scheme and venture capital trusts.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 December 2010 from the hon. Member for Walsall North on the merger between HBOS and Lloyds. [33460]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Revenue and Customs

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employee status inquiries were opened by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five financial years; and how many of these were found to be fraudulent in each year. [32833]

Mr Gauke: Employer compliance reviews opened where status was shown as a risk in the last five financial years are:

	Reviews
2006-07	4,721
2007-08	3,745
2008-09	2,654
2009-10	2,187
2010 to date	930

None of these were found to be fraudulent cases.

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the Construction Industry Services team in HM Revenue and Customs was discontinued; and where responsibility for the duties previously performed by the team is now allocated. [32834]

Mr Gauke: HMRC is not aware of any HMRC team named the 'Construction Industry Services team'.

Revenue and Customs: ICT

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs has spent on ultra mobile personal computers (UMPCs) for staff in its Debt Management and Banking Business unit undertaking outdoor debt recovery visits; and what estimate he has made of the *(a)* unit cost, *(b)* development cost of the Fieldforce Interactive Link (FIL) computer application, *(c)* monetary value of the IT support and maintenance contract for the (i) UMPCs and (ii) FIL application and *(d)* monetary value of the accessories procured for use by staff in conjunction with the UMPCs. [32836]

Mr Gauke: The UMPC service is maintained under the terms of the Department's principal IT supplier contract with Capgemini, known as the Aspire contract.

The contract is structured so that project development work to deliver software applications is now charged on a fixed price basis, based on the number and cost of function points delivered. For services, prices are charged for all service elements at a commodity level (e.g. per workstation, volumes of printed output etc). The charge to the Department will vary by volume of demand for each service line.

The unit costs for the UMPCs are covered by commercial confidentiality and it is not possible to disaggregate the figures to provide a specific charge, in cash terms, for the maintenance and support costs. The development cost of the Fieldforce Interactive Link was £1.945 million and the costs for accessories was £25,859.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employee status inspectors were employed by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor organisations *(a)* in each of the last 10 years and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [32832]

Mr Gauke: No statistical data on the number of status inspectors employed by HM Revenue and Customs, or its predecessor the Inland Revenue, in the last 10 years are available except for 2009 and 2010. For these years the numbers are 48 for 2009 and 39 for 2010.

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff were employed in the HM Revenue and Customs Security and Business Continuity directorate *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [32835]

Mr Gauke: The number of staff employed in the HM Revenue and Customs Security and Business Continuity directorate in each of the last five years and at 30 November 2010 are shown in the following table.

	HMRC		*Security and Business Continuity*	
Date	*Headcount*	*FTE*	*Headcount*	*FTE*
April 2006	100,738	92,888.45	77	77.31
April 2007	96,511	88,935.55	71	67.81
April 2008	90,961	83,827.84	225	217.85
April 2009	88,875	81,159.89	254	245.12
April 2010	76,033	68,910.43	101	95.31
30 November 2010	74,296	66,992.76	90	85.14

Tax Allowances: Video Games

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the introduction of a tax credit for the UK video games industry in the 2011 budget. [32947]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the June 2010 Budget statement that the Government will not introduce a tax relief for the UK video games industry.

The Budget announced a package of reforms to business taxation, reducing rates of corporation tax for all companies. Companies in all sectors will benefit from these changes, including those in the video games industry.

Tax Yields

Mr Byrne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of tax receipts from *(a)* business services, *(b)* education, health and social work, *(c)* financial intermediation, *(d)* manufacturing and *(e)* other wholesale and retail trade from (i) personal tax, (ii) direct business tax, (iii) consumption tax, (iv) property tax and (v) environmental tax in (A) 2003-04, (B) 2004-05, (C) 2005-06, (D) 2006-07 and (E) 2007-08. [33269]

Mr Gauke: The full breakdown of tax receipts outlined in the question is not available.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs produces a breakdown by broad industrial sector for corporation tax, pay-as-you-earn income tax and class 1 national insurance contributions (NICs) and value added tax (VAT). No breakdown by industrial sector for self-assessment taxation or property and environmental taxes is available.

Historical figures for corporation tax receipts paid by several broadly-defined business sectors are regularly updated and published in Table 11.1 on the HMRC National Statistics website. Receipts information is available from 1997-98 to 2009-10. The sectors are defined by HMRC's Summary Trade Classifications. The latest update is available here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.pdf

For personal taxes a breakdown by sector can be produced for PAYE income tax and class 1 NICs received by HMRC in respect of employee and employer liabilities. Figures for the requested sectors are as follows:

					£ million
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Business services	29,567	32,221	35,182	38,996	44,009
Education	16,274	17,498	18,456	19,422	20,133
Health and social work	12,959	14,598	16,167	17,454	17,735
Financial intermediation	17,001	18,739	20,673	24,085	26,160
Manufacturing	25,133	25,696	25,898	26,570	27,355
Wholesale and retail trade	18,733	19,729	20,554	21,512	22,895

The sectors are defined by the Office for National Statistics' Standard Industrial Classification 2003.

Declared VAT is published by trade group in the VAT factsheet, table 2.3:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factvat

Archived factsheets provide figures for earlier years:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/
index.cfm?task=factarchive&factcategory=8

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Action Plan on Transgender Equality

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent progress has been made on the development of the Action Plan on Transgender Equality; and if she will make a statement. [31016]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 16 December 2010]*: In June 2010 we announced our commitment to publish the first ever Government action plan on transgender equality by the end of 2011.

Work to develop the action plan is progressing. Our firm commitment is to work with transgender groups to develop the action plan. As part of this, to date the Government Equalities Office has held two informal workshops involving invited members of the transgender community to seek their views on what action is needed to tackle the inequalities they experience. I attended the workshop which took place on 6 December 2010. Our engagement with the transgender community will continue throughout 2011 as we continue to develop the action plan.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 17 January 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Sky Broadcasting

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what timetable he has set for taking a decision on News Corporation's bid for BSkyB following the submission of Ofcom's report. [33610]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bury South (Mr Lewis) on 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 386W.

Football Association

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had recent discussions with the incoming chair of the Football Association to discuss football governance reform and supporter involvement. [33615]

Hugh Robertson: The new chair of the Football Association is not yet in post but, as soon as he is I intend to meet him as a priority.

Horserace Betting Levy

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many licensed betting offices paid the Horserace Betting Levy *(a)* at the 10 per cent. rate, *(b)* between 4.5 per cent. and 10 per cent. and *(c)* at a rate of 4.5 per cent. or lower in each of the last three years. [33855]

John Penrose: The Department does not hold the information requested.

The Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) is responsible for collecting the levy from betting shops, and I have therefore asked the chief executive of the HBLB to write to the hon. Member for Chippenham directly.

Copies of the response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Libraries: Opening Hours

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects on the provision of library services of proposed changes to opening hours or the closure of libraries by local authorities. [33951]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State has a statutory duty to superintend the delivery of library services by local authorities, including any reduction in programmes. He takes this duty very seriously and we continue to monitor proposals being made about changes to library services across England. However, any specific assessment of the impact of any changes to services has to be made within the context of the exercise of statutory powers by the Secretary of State, consideration of which has to be made on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with the statutory provisions.

Responsibility and accountability for day to day management of individual library services, including opening hours and closures, is vested in local authorities. Local authorities must be capable of demonstrating that they have discharged their statutory duty to provide a "comprehensive and efficient" library service and that they will continue to do so if changes are made to the service.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the Memorandum of Information in respect of the role of the Olympic Park Legacy Company. [33849]

Hugh Robertson: A copy of the Memorandum of Information will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Memorandum of Information was prepared by the Olympic Park Legacy Company as part of the process to select a long-term use for the Olympic stadium.

Tourism

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when the Minister responsible for tourism next plans to visit the North East. [33023]

John Penrose: I hope to visit the North East of England as part of an ongoing programme of regional trips which should help take forward the Government's new strategy for tourism. The next set of visits is currently under review and I hope to clarify details in due course.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess for benchmarking purposes the effect on the tourist industry in *(a)* France, *(b)* Spain and *(c)* the Netherlands of reduced levels of value added tax for (i) hotel accommodation and (ii) restaurant meals in developing policies to assist the tourism industry. [33523]

John Penrose: Tax is a matter for Treasury Ministers. All taxes are kept under review and any changes are announced by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process. The Government are committed to creating the best possible environment for a sustainable private sector led economic recovery. A competitive tax system is at the heart of our approach, but other factors (such as the levels of interest and exchange rates, which in turn depend on sound public finances) are also very important too.

While the Government will consider carefully proposals for new reliefs that might assist the tourism and hospitality industry, the financial position we inherited means we must give priority to maintaining our fiscal base. So there are no current plans to assess the impact that the application of reduced VAT rates in France, Spain and the Netherlands has on the hotel and restaurant sectors in those countries.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what mechanisms are in place to measure the success of initiatives taken by his Department to increase competitiveness in the tourist industry. [33750]

John Penrose: We are currently considering initiatives to increase competitiveness in the tourism industry, and they will be included in the Tourism Strategy which we intend to publish shortly.

When our consideration is finalised, we will decide what indicators will best show the success of our plans.

TRANSPORT

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1299W, on the Dartford-Thurrock Crossing, what steps his Department has taken to deal with congestion on roads in and around Thurrock attributable to congestion at the Dartford Crossing. [33581]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport's spending review announcement made clear that reducing congestion at the Dartford Crossing is a priority.

We have set out proposals to allow investment in the short, medium and longer term improvements, including introduction of free-flow charging, consideration of charge suspension at time of particularly severe congestion, and exploring new additional capacity.

In addition, the Highways Agency is investigating how to improve contingency plans and communication flows, with local authorities, county councils and major retail outlets such as Bluewater and Lakeside.

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions his Department has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings his Department was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions his Department has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31927]

Norman Baker: Since 26 May there have been no embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement organised by the Department for Transport's press office.

Transport: Capital Investment

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department has allocated for capital expenditure on transport infrastructure in each region in the next 12 months. [33216]

Norman Baker: Only a small part of the Department for Transport's budget is split by region in advance, the rest being allocated via a variety of transport providers and funding mechanisms, including a bids process, making it impractical to budget by region.

However, estimates of future regional spending are produced for the public expenditure core tables which are annexed to the Department's annual Resource Accounts. Regional spending estimates for 2011-12 will be compiled later this year, to be published as an annex to the Department's 2010-11 Resource Accounts.

Trief Kerbs

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent safety assessments his Department has made of the use of trief kerbs. [33286]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has made no recent safety assessments on the use of trief kerbs.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Feed: Prices

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to investigate the effect on poultry farmers of recent trends in feed prices. [33591]

Mr Paice: The poultry industry is the single largest user of domestic cereal production. Feed is the largest component of the costs of production and consequently changes in cereal prices will have an immediate, direct effect on poultry farmer profitability. However, some opportunities exist for farmers to alter the composition of feed rations in order to minimise impacts on their business.

While I always take a keen interest in this sector, there are no current plans to investigate this matter.

Dangerous Dogs

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to promote responsible dog ownership; if she will bring forward proposals to consolidate existing legislation regulating the ownership of dangerous dogs; and if she will make a statement. [33285]

Mr Paice: We appreciate that the issue of dangerous dogs is increasingly important to the public. We consider that it is not just a problem of dangerous breeds, but also one of bad owners. They need to be held to account and stopped from ruining people's lives.

DEFRA is working closely with the Home Office on the antisocial behaviour dimension to this issue. We are also working with groups such as the RSPCA to look at other issues raised in the recent dangerous dogs consultation, such as micro-chipping and attacks on private property.

The Government are currently working on a proposal for a project to look at the motivations, barriers and social norms surrounding the acquisition and keeping of 'status dogs' in urban communities in the UK. This project has the support of the Home Office, Communities, Metropolitan Police, RSPCA and Dogs Trust.

An announcement about the Government's approach to dangerous dogs will be made early this year.

Environment Protection: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other support her Department plans to provide to (i) the National Trust, (ii) the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, (iii) the Wildlife Trusts Partnership, (iv) the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, (v) the Woodland Trust, (vi) Butterfly Conservation and (vii) Plantlife in each of the four financial years from 2011-12. [33351]

Richard Benyon: Spending plans for future financial years are still being developed and have not yet been finalised.

Food: Reserves

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many days of food stocks at current consumption levels her Department holds in reserve. [33544]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 13 January 2011]:* The Government have no plans to hold reserve stocks of food. In the UK Food Security Assessment (published in August 2009 and updated in January 2010) DEFRA assesses that the UK enjoys a high level of food security, and we are continuously reviewing our evidence base to maintain this situation.

Forestry Commission

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to put in place arrangements to ensure that forests owned or leased by the Forestry Commission continue to be certified by the Forestry Stewardship Council after the disposal of the public forest estate; and if she will make a statement. [33950]

Mr Paice: Certification under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard is voluntary and this will be a decision for the new owners of woodland in the Forestry Commission's current asset sales programme. The consultation on the future ownership and management of the public forest estate will include proposals on how certification might be maintained.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the monetary value was of bills to the Forestry Commission from selling agents for incomplete asset sales since May 2010; and how many such bills the Commission has received during that period. [34173]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission has received 21 bills since May 2010 totalling £73,363 for woodland placed on the market and later withdrawn from sale.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the inclusion of woodlands designated by the Forestry Commission as heathland in that body's disposals programme; and what recent submissions she has received on this matter. [34174]

Mr Paice: Heathland and other open habitats are a small component of many of the Forestry Commission's woodlands across England. Under the previous Government, the Forestry Commission England selected its woodland sales programme from those areas which provide limited added value from public ownership in the delivery of public benefits. We are currently considering the sales criteria for woodland that will be placed on the market in 2011-12.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many designated ancient woodlands have been removed from the Forestry Commission's disposals programme since May 2010; and what estimate has been made of the effects of such removals on the Forestry Commission's budget deficit for the financial year 2010-11. [34175]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission has withdrawn 17 designated ancient woodlands valued at £3.5 million from its 2010-11 asset sales programme. Due to the uncertainty in completing the sale of any woodland on a given time scale, the Forestry Commission's asset sales programme has flexibility built into it. That flexibility has ensured that the Forestry Commission does not expect there to be an impact on its budget from the withdrawal of these woodlands.

Forests

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely effect on the number of trees per hectare in woodland areas of her Department's policies in each of the next four years. [33356]

Mr Paice: No assessment has been made on this issue. The number of trees per hectare in any woodland is determined by the management regime and this is a decision for the woodland owner.

The United Kingdom Forestry Standard does not specify a tree density for sustainable forest management and the ancient woodland practice guide gives a range of density from 2,500 to 50 stems per hectare as acceptable, dependant upon the situation.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which proposals for restoration of woodland in England *(a)* have been confirmed since May 2010, *(b)* are under review and *(c)* are not to be proceeded with; [33357]

(2) which proposals for restoration of woodland are under review by her Department following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [33375]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 13 January 2011]:* DEFRA does not carry out the restoration of woodland. The Forestry Commission is responsible for delivery of forestry policy.

Since May 2010, the Forestry Commission has approved applications under the English Woodland Grant Scheme for Woodland Regeneration Grants on 1,229 hectares (92 applicants) for the restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) to native woodland. A further 1,122 hectares (52 applications) are in progress and 23 hectares (three applications) have been withdrawn by the applicant before approval. No applications have been rejected.

On the public forest estate, managed by the Forestry Commission, the focus of management of PAWS across the estate remains to enhance the ecological, social and economic value and ultimately to return them to native woodland species.

Nature Reserves

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what proposals her Department has to increase net levels of biodiversity on national nature reserve land in England in each of the next four financial years; [33346]

(2) what criteria for assessing levels of net biodiversity her Department will apply to the transfer of national nature reserve land from Natural England to the charitable, voluntary and third sectors; [33348]

(3) what options for the *(a)* funding, *(b)* ownership and *(c)* management of national nature reserves in England her Department is discussing with the charitable, voluntary and third sectors; [33349]

(4) what arrangements her Department plans to make for *(a)* pensions and *(b)* terms and conditions of employment of employees in national nature reserves managed by Natural England should such reserves be transferred to charities, voluntary groups, or the third sector; [33350]

(5) how many of the national nature reserves maintained by Natural England are to be transferred to *(a)* the National Trust, *(b)* the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, *(c)* the Wildlife Trusts Partnership, *(d)* the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, *(e)* the Woodland Trust, *(f)* Butterfly Conservation and *(g)* Plantlife; [33352]

(6) how many requests she has received from wildlife charities to acquire national nature reserves maintained by Natural England; [33353]

(7) what level of savings she expects to make from the transfer of national nature reserves from Natural England to the charitable, voluntary or third sector in each of the next four financial years. [33507]

Richard Benyon: National nature reserves make an important and valuable contribution to the Government's biodiversity objectives, and to the public's understanding and appreciation of the natural environment. We need to look for ways to ensure that future management enhances their contribution, both at the national and local levels.

We have been investigating different management options and have involved civil society partners in these discussions, and will consult on these in due course. Cost reduction is not the primary driver for this exercise and no estimate has been made of any savings which might result. A number of wildlife charities have expressed an interest in being involved in the process, but pending a more formal process, only one has specifically requested to acquire a national nature reserve. Many nature reserves are already managed by local, charitable or private bodies and while we continue to analyse the costs and benefits of different approaches to Government-run sites, we have made no firm decisions about the role that the big society will play in the future of these important places.

The great majority (98% by area) of national nature reserves are also designated as sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) and so are among our most precious wildlife sites. We will not take any risks with their future. Safeguards for biodiversity and other public benefits that these areas bring will remain no matter where ownership lies.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of hens which will have beaks trimmed in 2011; and what estimate she has made of the number which would have had beaks trimmed had the proposed prohibition on trimming come into effect in accordance with the timetable originally proposed; and if she will make a statement. [32983]

Mr Paice: We estimate that all hens housed in caged, free range and barn systems will be routinely beak trimmed. These account for around 18.6 million birds per year (approximately 94% of all laying hens). Organic laying hens are not routinely beak trimmed.

We are not able to estimate the numbers of birds which might have been beak trimmed in an emergency following an outbreak of feather pecking and cannibalism had the prohibition on beak trimming come into effect.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what her policy is on the uniform implementation of the Welfare of Laying Hens Directive; [33306]

(2) whether she has made recent representations to the European Commission on implementation of the Welfare of Laying Hens Directive in each member state. [33307]

Mr Paice: I am committed to supporting our industry and have therefore asked the Commission to provide sufficient enforcement controls across the EU to protect those UK producers who have invested heavily in complying with the legislation. I do not want to see UK producers disadvantaged if there was any delay to the ban, or if other member states do not meet the deadline. It is the Commission's responsibility to take a tough enforcement stance against non-compliant producers. The Government intend to take firm action against any UK producer still keeping laying hens in conventional cages after 1 January 2012.

The Commission has repeatedly restated its commitment to the 2012 deadline, most recently when I met with Commissioner Dalli in November 2010. The Commission has recently asked member states to submit data on the number of laying hen production sites according to farming method. Those data will be used at a multi-stakeholder conference organised by the Commission on 19 January to aid discussion on how converting to alternative systems is progressing throughout the EU.

Poultry: Swine Flu

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions she has had with the devolved Administrations on the presence of H1N1 in poultry in the UK; [34140]

(2) on what date she was first notified that the H1N1 virus had been detected in poultry in the UK; [34141]

(3) on what date, and by what method, she notified the devolved Administrations of the presence of the H1N1 virus in poultry in the UK. [34142]

Mr Paice: I was first informed of the possibility of H1N1 being detected in poultry on 5 January; the devolved Administrations were informed by my officials on the same date by e-mail. The UK chief veterinary officer discussed the case with colleagues in the devolved Administrations on 6 January. As a result of further testing, the presence of H1N1 in poultry was confirmed to me and officials in the devolved Administrations, again by e-mail, on 7 January. An Information Notice was issued by DEFRA on 12 January when further tests confirmed that the strain of H1N1 that had been detected was of low pathogenicity and therefore was not a notifiable disease.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Control Orders

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Attorney-General how many special advocates have been appointed in respect of control orders since such orders were introduced in 2005. [33138]

The Solicitor-General: Special advocates are appointed by the Attorney-General.

Since their introduction in 2005, special advocates have been appointed in respect of 37 control orders. In most cases two advocates are appointed to each case.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Attorney-General how many special advocates there are in post to support controlled individuals in closed sessions. [33139]

The Solicitor-General: Special advocates are appointed by the Attorney-General.

The Attorney-General maintains a panel of senior and junior counsel who have indicated an interest in undertaking special advocate work and who have been security vetted to an appropriate level. Although the number varies over time, there are currently 69 counsel on the panel, of whom 67 are qualified to be appointed in control order cases.

Sentencing: Prisoners

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Attorney-General what advice he has given to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Lord Chancellor on the compatibility with the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights of plans to introduce the enfranchisement of sentenced prisoners in custody. [34016]

The Attorney-General: By long-standing convention, observed by successive Administrations and embodied in the Ministerial Code, the fact that the Law Officers have advised (or have not advised) on a particular issue, and the content of any advice, is not disclosed outside of Government.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department has allocated to the implementation of the findings of its low carbon capacity assessment studies; and if he will make a statement. [33541]

Charles Hendry: The Department has not allocated any additional funding for the implementation of findings of the renewable and low carbon energy capacity assessment studies, beyond the existing support framework for renewables deployment.

Local planning authorities are expected to have local plans in place which promote renewable energy and have regard to national policy. These plans should be founded on a robust evidence base. The Department intends the capacity assessment studies to be a tool to help local planning authorities and local communities in drawing up local and neighbourhood plans. It is for local planning authorities and communities to decide how best to use the findings of the studies to inform their development plans and to maximise opportunities for the deployment of renewable and low carbon energy in their areas.

In the future local authorities will need to have regard to the National Planning Policy Framework, which will make it clear that planning has a big part to play in tackling climate change. The Department for Communities and Local Government has invited organisations and individuals to offer suggestions on what priorities and policies might be adopted in the framework, and will consult on a draft in 2011.

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department is considering changes to its policies to reduce carbon emissions in order to meet climate change targets. [33612]

Gregory Barker: Latest emissions projections, published in June 2010, show that the UK is on track to meet its first three carbon budgets and has already reduced emissions by over 22% against 1990 levels, taking into account the effects of emissions trading. Additional policies to be implemented by the Government, such as the Green Deal, support for the world's first commercial scale CCS demonstration, and the roll-out of smart meters and a smart grid will build on this progress. Further information on the actions to take forward these policies can be found in DECC's business plan (published November 2010).

Electricity: Prices

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average change in electricity bills arising from the implementation of his proposals for reform of the energy market in each of the next five years. [33542]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 256W.

Energy Policy

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to his answer of 21 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 863-64W, on energy policy, whether he plans to issue guidance to his officials on the definition of appropriate compensation and corresponding benefits for the purpose of reviewing cases in line with the policy set out in the written ministerial statement of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 42-46WS, on energy policy; and if he will make a statement. [33364]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has no plans to issue guidance to his officials on the definition of appropriate compensation and corresponding benefits.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the contents of Chapter 3 of the International Energy Agency's report on the World Energy Outlook for 2010; and if he will make a statement. [33389]

Charles Hendry: Chapter 3 of the International Energy Agency's report is a valuable analysis, which provides a thorough overview of possible future scenarios for world oil markets between 2009 and 2035. These are based on current policies ("Current Policies Scenario"); policies consistent with commitments announced by individual countries ("New Policies Scenario"); and policies consistent with meeting a two degree climate change goal ("450 Scenario").

The differences between these scenarios highlight that the outlook for oil is highly sensitive to policy action to curb rising demand and emissions. Under the Current Policies scenario oil import prices reach $135/barrel in 2035; under the New Policies scenario $113/barrel; and under the 450 Scenario $90/barrel. Under the New Policies scenario demand continues to grow steadily to 2035. All of the growth comes from non-OECD countries (57% from China alone), mainly driven by rising use of transport fuels. The main sources of increased oil production include Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Brazil and the Caspian region. The role of unconventional oil (particularly Canadian oil sands and Venezuelan extra-heavy oil) is expected to expand rapidly, enabling it to meet about 10% of world oil demand in all three scenarios by 2035.

The scenarios underline the importance of our policies to promote investment in oil production, enhance price stability through greater transparency and producer-consumer dialogue, and encourage low carbon growth to constrain demand as well as reduce CO_2 emissions.

Energy Supply

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the merits of putting in place mechanisms to ensure fair competition between the renewable and traditional energy sectors. [33156]

Charles Hendry: The Government have recently published the Electricity Market Reform and Carbon Price Support consultation documents. These set out, and seek views on, a number of interventions that would change the investment incentives for renewables, other low carbon forms of generation and fossil fired plant within the competitive market.

A White Paper later in 2011 will set out the final set of reforms that will ensure that the UK market design is able to support the low carbon investment that the renewables targets and 2050 objectives require.

Energy: Prices

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria Ofgem use to determine whether consumer energy tariffs currently offered by energy suppliers are unnecessarily complex or confusing. [33069]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem is currently reviewing the retail market and, as part of this, will be looking at how effectively the energy companies have implemented the reforms introduced following its 2008 Energy Supply Probe. Ofgem will also be looking into issues concerning tariff complexity and consumer engagement.

These reforms included a set of overarching standards of conduct, regarding how suppliers deal with consumers on issues such as the complexity of products, which Ofgem expects the suppliers to adhere to.

These standards are not enforceable against energy suppliers, but are supported by obligations in licences and under consumer protection law, and form part of the wider context for possible Ofgem enforcement action.

Ofgem will take the standards into account when considering consumer detriment and when deciding whether to investigate potential licence breaches by suppliers. The standards will continue to form part of the context as an investigation progresses and as Ofgem makes decisions on the action it might take.

Ofgem has said that if suppliers do not meet their obligations they will consider more formal action.

Further details of these standards can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/ensuppro/Documents1/Standards%20of%20conduct%20for%20suppliers%20in%20the%20retail%20energy%20market.pdf

In addition, we believe the provision of clear and comparable information on bills is crucial to energy users, to enable them to understand the range of products available to them. That is why we have introduced proposals in the Energy Bill that energy bills should tell consumers about their supplier's cheapest tariff.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department has made on modifying the conditions of supply licences to ensure that domestic consumers are notified by energy companies of changes to their gas and electricity tariffs within a specified period. [33386]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem are currently consulting on the impact assessment document of their proposals to change gas and electricity supply licences to require domestic suppliers to give advance notification of up to

30 days before a price increase becomes effective. Ofgem's consultation closes on 18 January and they are expected to announce the way forward shortly after. Under the Energy Act 2010, Ministers have powers to modify licences to require such advance notice and we have made it clear that we will use these powers if Ofgem is unable to introduce these changes in a timely manner.

Fuel Oil: Prices

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with representatives of retail oil companies on their pricing strategy during periods of cold weather. [33695]

Charles Hendry: The UK retail oil market is open and competitive. The Office of Fair Trading continues to consider all complaints and representations carefully and is monitoring for any indications that consumer or competition legislation has been breached.

The Department has regular contact on issues affecting industry with trade associations that represent many oil suppliers. We have had no specific discussions with retail oil companies on pricing strategy during periods of cold weather.

Fuel Poverty

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the number of households in fuel poverty in *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the Wirral Borough Council area, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK. [33865]

Gregory Barker: In 2006, the most recent year for which sub-regional figures are available, there were around 6,400 fuel poor households in the Wallasey constituency, and around 20,900 fuel poor households in the Wirral local authority.

More recent figures exist at regional level, and these show that in 2008, there were 531,000 fuel poor households in the north-west and 4.5 million fuel poor households in the UK.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the level of fuel poverty for each decile of the population by income in each year from 2011 to 2020. [34208]

Gregory Barker: Fuel poverty estimates by income decile are not currently available for the years 2011 to 2020. The latest year for which this information is available is 2008.

The number of fuel poor households in England by income decile in 2008 are shown in the following table:

Income decile	*Number of households in fuel poverty (thousand)*
1st decile (lowest income)	1,702
2nd decile	883
3rd decile	386
4th decile	213
5th decile	73
6th to 10th decile (highest income)	78
Total	3,335

Green Deal

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable he has set for bringing forward his detailed proposals for the Green Deal. [33159]

Gregory Barker: This is a market mechanism, so the detail of the final Green Deal products will be decided by private providers according to consumer preferences. The Department is responsible for providing the legislative framework to enable this. Our provisional timetable was set out on page seven of the 20-page Green Deal policy document, published alongside the Energy Bill 2010-11. It is as follows, subject to the time taken for parliamentary scrutiny of the Bill:

December 2010: Introduction of the Energy Bill to Parliament.

Pre-autumn 2011: Officials engage stakeholders as they develop the technical details for secondary legislation.

Autumn 2011: Formal consultation on secondary legislation

Early 2012: Secondary legislation laid before Parliament.

Spring 2012: Detailed industry guidance prepared.

Autumn 2012: First Green Deals appear.

Incinerators: Carbon Emissions

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the average emissions in grams of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt hour of *(a)* incinerator and *(b)* other thermal energy-from-waste facilities. [33808]

Gregory Barker: Within the UK, incinerators which generate electricity from municipal solid waste (MSW) are commonly referred to as energy from waste (EfW) plant. In 2008, the latest year for which data are available, we estimate that EfW plant produce 0.54 kt carbon dioxide equivalent per GWh (equivalent to 0.54 kg per kWh). This figure incorporates emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. It should be noted that there is a high level of uncertainty around this figure.

All other incinerators in the UK, such as chemical or clinical waste incinerators, animal carcass incinerators or crematoria, do not generate any electricity. These are just "waste incinerators" and are typically smaller in capacity than the energy from waste plant used for MSW energy recovery and disposal.

London Energy Meeting

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what agreements were made on energy subsidy reform at the London Energy Meeting in December 2008. [33217]

Charles Hendry: No agreements on energy subsidy reform were made at the London Energy Meeting.

Ofgem

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will consider the merits of extending the remit of Ofgem to include heating oil and its distribution. [33884]

Charles Hendry: The regulation of gas and electricity markets promotes competition and regulates the monopoly companies which run the electricity and gas networks.

There is no natural monopoly for supply and distribution in the heating oil market. The OFT continues to consider all complaints and representations carefully, and monitor for indications that consumer or competition legislation has been breached.

However we are not complacent and will continue to monitor the situation carefully and will be considering whether any further action needs to be taken.

Renewable Energy

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of electricity supplied to households that is produced from renewable sources. [33675]

Charles Hendry: The majority of renewable electricity generated is supplied to the National Grid, who then transmit it across the country. As such, all grid-connected UK households will receive the same proportion of electricity originating from renewable sources as the grid as a whole. DECC does not currently hold generation data for households directly supplied by renewable installations.

DECC publishes data on the total amount of electricity supplied by renewable sources, which can be used to estimate the proportion of electricity supplied to households from renewable sources. In 2009, 6.7% of electricity generated in the UK was from renewable sources. The latest data for the 3rd quarter of 2010 show 8.8% of electricity generated was from renewable sources.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the oral answer of 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 410, on the renewable heat incentive (RHI), whether his Department plans to introduce a tariff for deep geothermal energy after the launch of the RHI. [33623]

Charles Hendry: We expect to be in a position to announce the details of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme, including RHI tariffs and technologies supported shortly.

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to introduce a dedicated tariff for deep geothermal energy when the Renewable Heat Incentive is launched in June this year. [33807]

Charles Hendry: We expect to be in a position to announce the details of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme, including RHI tariffs and technologies supported shortly.

Sellafield

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with the Scottish Government on the current and future storage of radioactive waste arising in Scotland of all categories in *(a)* Sellafield and *(b)* West Cumbria. [33438]

Charles Hendry: The Department has had no recent discussions with the Scottish Government on the current and future storage of radioactive waste arising in Scotland, in Sellafield or West Cumbria.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken by Eaga plc to carry out work under the Warm Front Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [32639]

Gregory Barker: Under the Warm Front Scheme the average waiting time for heating and insulation measures is 65 and 23 days respectively[1].

[1] Up to 26 December 2010 and based on waiting times between allocation of work to the installer and installation of measures.

Wind Power

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on wind turbine energy production of the low temperatures experienced since November 2010. [33607]

Charles Hendry: I have seen no evidence to suggest that the low temperatures experienced since November 2010 have had any effect on wind turbine energy production. National Grid data indicate that generating output from operationally metered wind turbines (which account for 40% of wind generating capacity) was 67% higher in November and December than in July and August. This is likely to be due to relatively higher average wind speeds in early November, and an increase in wind power capacity.

Wind Power: Carbon Emissions

Mr Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the net reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from wind power taking into account the provision of standby generation from conventional power stations in the latest period for which figures are available. [33992]

Charles Hendry: The Department estimates that the net savings from wind power in 2009 were 5.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. This is based on an assessment of the weighted average carbon dioxide emissions of the fossil fuel mix in that year. It takes account of the effect of intermittency on the efficiency of plant used for back-up during times that wind-power was not available. Emissions from the electricity supply system, including from supplies used for back-up, are measured via the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory. The 2010 figure will be available following publication of the Digest of UK Energy Statistics, at the end of July 2011.

Wind Power: Manufacturing Industries

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to support companies manufacturing and installing wind turbines. [34020]

Charles Hendry: The renewables obligation is currently the Government's main financial incentive for renewable electricity, including wind power, and has been successful in more than tripling the level of renewable electricity in the UK from 1.8% in 2002 to 6.6% in 2009.

The Department is also involved in providing support for small scale wind installations. In particular, the feed-in tariff came into force in April 2010 to provide financial incentives for the installation of small scale renewable electricity generation, including micro-wind. On 22 December 2010, we also published a consultation on a microgeneration strategy that marks the final stage in more than six months of collaborative engagement with industry and others on the options for removing barriers to deployment of all types of microgeneration.

On the 25 October 2010, the Government announced up to £60 million to support the establishment of offshore wind manufacturing at ports sites in the assisted areas of England.

DECC has also provided technology support through the Low Carbon Energy Demonstration capital grants scheme (which is not currently open to new proposals). In the course of three calls for proposals under the scheme, support was offered to 16 projects in the wind energy sector, worth a total of over £25 million. Future innovation support programmes for low carbon technologies, including off-shore wind, are being considered with decisions expect in the spring.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Finance

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much financial support for young asylum seekers she plans to allocate to Croydon council in the next three years; how much such funding she allocated in the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [33673]

Damian Green: Croydon local authority will be allocated funding for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) in accordance with grant instructions that are published annually. They can be found at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithasylumseekers/local-authority-grants/

Over the last three years Croydon has been awarded funding as follows:

	£	*Number supported*
2007-08	27,848,240	731
2008-09	27,965,341	708
2009-10	26,253,818	594

The amount that will be paid to Croydon council in the future will depend upon the number and age of the children supported, and the national daily rate set for the cost of supporting an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child. From 2010-11 this is £95 for every under 16 and £71 for every 16/17-year-old.

In addition to the grant for unaccompanied asylum seeking children Croydon receive funding for former UASC who have turned 18 and are eligible for leaving care funding. This is as follows:

	Leaving care (£ million)
2007-08	2.4
2008-09	3.1
2009-10	3.9

The UK Border Agency has also offered Croydon additional funding for future years in recognition of their status as a "gateway" authority. This has yet to be agreed with the authority.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many automatic number plate recognition cameras are in use by each *(a)* police force and *(b)* of her Department's agencies in (i) England and (ii) Wales. [33222]

James Brokenshire: The number of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras in use by police forces in England and Wales varies on a daily basis. The following tables show the number of cameras in use between 5 and 11 January 2011, by force, based on data held by the National Policing Improvement Agency on the number of such cameras feeding data into the National ANPR Data Centre (NADC) during that period. Information on the number of ANPR cameras that may be in use by other agencies of the Home Office is not centrally collated.

(i) ANPR cameras in use in England by force (5-11 January 2011)

	Number
Avon and Somerset	125
Bedfordshire	57
Cambridgeshire	63
Cleveland	62
Cumbria	28
Derbyshire	91
Devon Cornwall	45
Dorset	51
Durham	94
Essex	161
Gloucestershire	60
Greater Manchester	234
Hampshire	57
Hertfordshire	178
Humberside	59
Kent	170
Lancashire	86
Leicestershire	76
Lincolnshire	93
Merseyside	254
Metropolitan and City of London	473
Norfolk	22
North West Motorway Police Group[1]	117
North Yorkshire	72

(i) ANPR cameras in use in England by force (5-11 January 2011)

	Number
Northamptonshire	69
Northumbria	48
Nottinghamshire	83
South Yorkshire	247
Staffordshire	35
Suffolk	81
Surrey	122
Sussex	158
Thames Valley	101
Warwickshire	29
West Mercia	70
West Midlands	388
West Yorkshire[2]	—
Wiltshire	66

[1] The North West Motorway Police Group ANPR pool comprises data from cameras covering motorways in the Cheshire, Lancashire, and Merseyside police areas. Cheshire Constabulary feeds all its data into this data pool.

[2] Due to a technical issue, no data was supplied to the NADC by West Yorkshire Police during the period sampled.

(ii) ANPR cameras in use in Wales by force (5-11 January 2011)

	Number
Dyfed Powys	115
Gwent	70
North Wales	101
South Wales	51

Crime

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the principal factors which account for the change in the number of crimes reported to the *(a)* police and *(b)* British Crime Survey in each year between 1996-97 and 2009-10. [33221]

Nick Herbert: Any factors affecting either police recorded crime or British Crime Survey (BCS) data are reported on in the published statistics. Since 2001-02 data for police recorded crime and the BCS have been reported together annually in 'Crime in England and Wales', published in July each year.

Prior to 2001-02, police recorded crime data, together with commentary, were published annually in the Command Paper 'Criminal Statistics, England and Wales'.

Results and commentary from BCS sweeps between 1996-97 and 2001-02 were published in Home Office Statistical Bulletins in 2000 and 2001.

Copies of all these publications are available in the Library.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were notified to the police in England and Wales in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2008-09. [33298]

Nick Herbert: Financial year data are available only from 1998-99 onwards so figures for 1996 are given (the period with greatest overlap with 1996-97). In 1996 there were 5,036,552 offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, and in 2008-09 there 4,702,717 offences recorded.

Because of the expanded coverage and changes to the counting rules in 1998-99, and the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002-03, these two figures are not directly comparable.

Demonstrations: City of Westminster

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether she has received representations from *(a)* the police, *(b)* other agencies and organisations and *(c)* individuals on the policing and conduct of the demonstrations in central London and elsewhere on 9 December 2010; [31026]

(2) whether she has had discussions with the Metropolitan police service on *(a)* the containment practices deployed to maintain public order at demonstrations and *(b)* their assessment of the effectiveness of such practices in policing the demonstration in London on 9 December 2010. [31154]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 16 December 2010]*: The Home Office has received representations from both Members of Parliament and the public about the policing of the protest on 9 December, and has also received a report from the Metropolitan police.

Tactics used by the police at this demonstration are an operational matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan police. Ministers have had a number of discussions with senior officers about demonstrations in London.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who participated in the protests on *(a)* 10 November 2010, *(b)* 24 November 2010, *(c)* 30 November 2010 and *(d)* 9 December 2010 were subsequently arrested; and how many were detected from CCTV images. [33434]

James Brokenshire: As of 12 January, the total number of arrests resulting from each of the student protests was as follows:

10 November—76 arrests

24 November—56 arrests

30 November—153 arrests to prevent breach of the peace; 21 arrests for substantive offences

9 December—53 arrests.

The Metropolitan police inform me that CCTV did significantly assist in detecting perpetrators for offences committed but it is not possible to break this down into a specific figure.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many invoices her Department processed in the last 12 months for which figures are available; what the average cost to her Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period her Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [30862]

Nick Herbert: The Home Department processes its invoices through the Ministry of Justice Shared Service Centre.

From December 2009 to November 2010, 99,465 invoices for the Department were processed.

The average cost (October 2010) of processing an invoice was £2.51 per invoice. This was the cost of the Shared Service Centre teams directly involved with processing the invoice and their share of the overheads.

The proportion of invoices paid electronically during 2009-10 was 98.48% and the proportion paid by cheque during 2009-10 was 1.52%. Those are the last full financial year data available.

Departmental Manpower

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of her Department work outside the UK. [33282]

Nick Herbert: There are no Home Department employees whose normal place of employment is outside the UK and we do not keep central records of those who may travel abroad on official business for all or part of their duties. 54 Home Office employees are on loan or secondment to other Government Departments including the Foreign and Commonwealth office. Our records do not show how many of these may be based overseas. To gather and provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Overtime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on overtime for staff working in the Secretary of State's private office in each of the last five years. [28562]

Nick Herbert: The expenditure incurred by the Department on staff claiming overtime in the Home Secretary's private office over the last five years is as follows:

Overtime expenditure 2006 to 2010

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2006-07	41,748
2007-08	38,079
2008-09	25,099
2009-10	25,084
2010-11 (8 months)	17,004

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on press cuttings services in each year since 1997. [28144]

Nick Herbert: Press cutting services are used to inform policy development and parliamentary decisions across a wide range of issues.

The Department's expenditure on press cuttings is set out in the following table. Expenditure on the UK Border Agency (now a Home Office agency) has been excluded to allow comparability of expenditure across the years.

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2005-06	116,000
2006-07	297,000
2007-08	206,000
2008-09	181,000
2009-10	182,000
2010-11 (expenditure up to November 2010)	105,000

Each year's data are expressed in that year's current prices and therefore do not take account of inflation. Data prior to April 2005 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Figures quoted in the table are inclusive of VAT and all National Licensing Authority Fees. Extracting these costs would be disproportionately costly.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* steps she is taking to encourage small businesses to bid for contracts let by her Department and *(b)* recent guidance she has provided to small businesses on bidding for such contracts. [32025]

Nick Herbert: The Home Department is currently producing a plan in support of the Government's initiative on creating opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and third sector organisations. It builds from the Department's current ability to identify its small business suppliers, which comprises 38% of the suppliers used and represents 9% of its supplier spend. This is complemented by the Department's good record of prompt payment within five days.

The Department is actively contributing to the cross-Government agenda which is being led by the Efficiency Reform Group.

The Department also assists small businesses in reducing the barriers they face in bidding through simplifying processes and placing lower value contract opportunities on the Supply2.gov.uk national portal. The Department fully supports cross-Government policy by guiding small businesses to access opportunities which are available via use of the portal.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with voluntary and community groups on bidding for contracts let by her Department. [32026]

Nick Herbert: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department has not had any recent discussions with this specific sector. However the Department continues to support both voluntary and community groups in the form of grants contributing to projects and programmes at a local level.

Departmental Travel

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on grey fleet in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [28843]

Nick Herbert: The Department's expenditure on grey fleet is set out in the following table:

	£000
2009-10	254
2008-09	248

All travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code and guidance contained within Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Home Office policy on travel requires staff to obtain authority from their line manager to use a private vehicle for official travel before undertaking any journey.

DNA: Databases

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who will have responsibility for the National DNA database after the National Policing Improvement Agency has been phased out. [32464]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office is currently working with the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), and the wider police service, to determine appropriate arrangements for running those functions that will continue after the NPIA is phased out.

Entry Clearances: Dalai Lama

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what applications for visas to visit the UK her Department has received from the Dalai Lama in the last five years. [33744]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not routinely comment on individual cases.

Entry Clearances: Married People

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications were made for marriage visas to enter the UK where the intended spouse was resident in the London borough of Bexley in the last 12 months. [33585]

Damian Green: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas students have had their visas revoked for breach of their visa conditions in each year since 2001. [33730]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not keep a central record of the number of individuals whose leave was curtailed or application refused for breaching their visa conditions. This information could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Exclusion Orders: USA

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will refuse a visa to Pastor Jones of Florida on account of his expressed views on Muslims. [31037]

Damian Green: It is not Home Office policy to comment on individual cases.

Extradition

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to report to the House the outcome of her Department's review of extradition. [33184]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 12 January 2011]:* In line with the written ministerial statement of 8 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 18WS, the independent panel undertaking the review of extradition are due to publish their findings in September 2011. Once the Government have considered the panel's report and examined whether changes need to be made to the UK's extradition arrangements, they will report their conclusions to Parliament.

Firearms: Licensing

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many firearms licences were granted to people 25 years of age or under in each of the last five years in *(a)* Newcastle upon Tyne and *(b)* the UK. [31698]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The total number of firearm and shotgun certificates granted to people aged 25 years or under in each calendar year from 2006 to 2010 are set out in the following tables for: (1) Northumbria police force and (2) England and Wales. The data were extracted from the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) which holds data at the police force area level for police forces in England and Wales. It is therefore not possible to provide data specific to Newcastle-upon-Tyne or for the UK.

Data relating to firearm and shotgun certificates issued by police forces in Scotland are submitted to, and published by, the Scottish Government. The provided data are provisional and subject to revision or change. NFLMS data are normally used for management and operational information only, and are not subject to the detailed quality checks applied to datasets used for National Statistics publications.

Table 1: Number of firearm and shotgun certificates granted to people aged 25 years or under by Northumbria police force in each calendar year from 2006-10

	Number of persons	*Number of certificates*
2006	70	86
2007	72	83
2008	69	77
2009	71	82
2010	70	81

Notes:

1. Some individuals were granted more than one certificate (ie one for firearms and one for shotguns).

2. The figures do not include certificates renewed or already held.

3. The provided data are provisional and subject to revision or change. NFLMS data are normally used for management and operational information only, and are not subject to the detailed quality checks applied to datasets used for National Statistics publications.

Table 2: Number of firearm and shotgun certificates granted to people aged 25 years or under by all police forces in England and Wales in each calendar year from 2006-10

	Number of persons	*Number of certificates*
2006	3,400	3,799
2007	3,205	3,516
2008	3,677	4,106
2009	3,648	4,000
2010	3,288	3,592

Notes:

1. Some individuals were granted more than one certificate (ie one for firearms and one for shotguns).

2. The figures do not include certificates renewed or already held.

3. The provided data are provisional and subject to revision or change. NFLMS data are normally used for management and operational information only, and are not subject to the detailed quality checks applied to datasets used for National Statistics publications.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons convicted of offences for which they have served terms of imprisonment of less than three years hold *(a)* shotgun and *(b)* firearm certificates in the (i) Metropolitan Police Service area, (ii) West Midlands Police Service area and (iii) Greater Manchester Police Service area. [32751]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not held centrally. Court proceedings data collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice include information on defendants and offences committed in England and Wales. No information about the circumstances of offences, including whether or not defendants held firearm certificates, is held unless specified in a statute.

Fixated Threat Assessment Centre

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what future plans she has for the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre; and if she will make a statement. [32115]

Nick Herbert: The Fixated Threat Assessment Centre (FTAC) is a joint Home Office-NHS funded body. Information about its activities can be found at:

www.fixatedthreat.com

The Home Office will continue to endorse and use the principles developed by FTAC in responding to the serious issue of stalking.

The Home Office expects to continue to financially contribute towards supporting FTAC over this spending period.

Forensic Science Service

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment her Department has made of the potential effects of abolishing the Forensic Science Service Ltd on the forensic science sector. [33303]

James Brokenshire: We made the decision to manage the closure of the Forensic Science Service (FSS) in close consultation with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and other partners across the Criminal Justice System (CJS). It is their collective view that a managed closure is in the best interests of the system as a whole.

ACPO have been clear that the forensics market can cope with the managed wind-down of the FSS. Feedback from the police and suppliers suggests that a managed wind-down will allow for an orderly transfer of capacity that minimises the cost to the taxpayer and enables us to manage the risks to the CJS.

We are working closely with ACPO, National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and the FSS board to put in place plans to maintain a sustainable operational and research capability within the forensics market both during and after the transition. We are committed to minimising the impact on the CJS and the continued provision of effective forensics is a priority for the Home Office.

Greater Manchester Police: Grants

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police on the effects on that police force of proposed reductions in police grants to Greater Manchester Police Authority in 2011-12. [29634]

Nick Herbert: Ministers have regular discussions with chief constables on a range of issues about policing. Decisions about the number of police officers and other police staff engaged by the Greater Manchester police are a matter for the chief constable and the police authority.

In a recent statement, available at:

http://www.gmp.police.uk/mainsite/pages/de394f0db5390748802577dc003ef9d5.htm

the chief constable of Greater Manchester police stated that:

> "the end result will be more resources put into frontline policing and a more efficient and effective service for the people of Greater Manchester."

Immigration

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for leave to remain in the UK were made outside the immigration rules in the last 12 months. [33588]

Damian Green: The numbers of applications for leave to remain in the UK made outside the immigration rules in the last 12 months between 1 January and 31 December 2010 was 11,588.

This is internal management information and is subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under the National Statistics protocols.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the number of non-EEA residents who entered the UK after having gained *(a)* citizenship and *(b)* indefinite leave to remain in other EU member states in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [33194]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not hold this information. When a citizen of the EU enters the United Kingdom, it is not evident from their passport or national identity card how they obtained EU citizenship in another country.

When a non-EEA citizen wishes to enter the United Kingdom, the individual is not required to provide evidence of having obtained indefinite leave to remain in another EU member state, and it may not be evident from their passport that such status was held. This is because at the point of arrival into the United Kingdom, non-EEA passengers must instead provide a valid United Kingdom entry clearance visa.

Immigration: Health

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of non-EU nationals who have been granted temporary leave to remain in the UK on medical grounds in each of the last five years. [33586]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not record the number of all non-EU nationals who have been granted temporary leave to remain in the UK on medical grounds in their standard reports.

To obtain such information for previous years would involve a case by case search or significant report development work at disproportionate cost.

Missing Persons: Dementia

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of calls police forces received concerning a missing person diagnosed with a form of dementia in the latest period for which figures are available; and the cost to the public purse of responding to such calls. [33305]

Nick Herbert: This information is not held centrally.

Naturalisation

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether time spent in the UK by a foreign national on a student visa counts towards the qualifying period for naturalisation as a British citizen; and if she will make a statement. [33729]

Damian Green: The position has not changed since my response of 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 445W. Time spent in the United Kingdom on a student visa can count towards the residence requirements for naturalisation if a person meets the statutory requirements on the date of application.

Any change to the requirements for naturalisation would require legislative change. There are no plans to do so at the current time.

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Code of Practice A

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the likely effects of the implementation of proposed changes to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Code of Practice A on *(a)* race relations and *(b)* relations between communities and the police. [25466]

Nick Herbert: The reduction in recording requirements for stop and search was part of the previous Government's Crime and Security Act 2010, and as such went through a formal equality impact assessment which was published in 2009. The assessment found that the reduced recording time should help improve the quality of each encounter, which in turn should help improve relations between the police service and the communities they serve.

The proposal to abolish the national recording requirement for stop and account has been assessed and a draft equality impact assessment is due to be published shortly. The proposals make it clear that some forces may wish to continue to monitor the ethnicity of people stopped, where there are local concerns about the use of stop and account.

These changes encourage the police to work closely with their community to ensure they understand and act on local concerns, rather than being directed to collect data from a central source.

Police Community Support Officers: Aberconwy

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers were assigned to duties in Aberconwy constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [31896]

Nick Herbert: Constituency level data of this type are not collected centrally. The latest available data that show police community support officer strength for north Wales by basic command unit, as at 31 March 2010, are provided in the following table:

Police community support officer strength by basic command unit, 31 March 2010[1, 2]

Police force	*Basic command unit*	*Full-time equivalents*
North Wales	North Wales Central	41
	North Wales Eastern	65
	North Wales Western	51
	Central Services	0
Total		156

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number Figures include those officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

[2]

Source:
Home Office using data received from police forces via the Annual Data Requirement.

Police Community Support Officers: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for future protection of the budget allocation for recruitment and retention of police community support officers in North Wales Police. [32391]

Nick Herbert: The Government announced on 13 December as part of the police funding settlement that, in recognition of the essential role the police community support officers (PCSOs) play, the Neighbourhood Policing Fund will be maintained over the next two years, before being devolved to Police and Crime Commissioners. About 90% of the grant is ring-fenced for PCSOs—contributing up to 75% of their salary costs.

Police: Conduct

Dr Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the responses of police forces to Independent Police Complaints Commission reports on police conduct during investigations of allegations of rape; and if she will make a statement. [32165]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 10 January 2011]:* The response by a police force to any report into its conduct by the Independent Police Complaints Commission is a matter for that force and its respective police authority, and such information is not held centrally by the Home Office.

Police: Helicopters

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she issues to police authorities on the criteria to be used in assessing requirements for police helicopters; and whether such criteria include the use of helicopters for *(a)* missing person searches, *(b)* safety in coastal areas and *(c)* other non-criminal uses. [34108]

Nick Herbert: There is no guidance issued to police authorities or police forces on the criteria to be used in assessing requirements for police helicopters. The decision on whether to use a helicopter for missing person searches, safety in coastal areas, and other non-criminal uses is one for chief officers to make in accordance with local priorities.

Prince William: Security

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the annual cost to the public purse of security provided for HRH Prince William and Catherine Middleton in Anglesey; and whether she has made an estimate of any change in that amount following the announcement of their engagement. [31723]

Nick Herbert: We are unable to provide detailed information on the cost of security to protected individuals or to confirm which individuals do or do not receive protection. To do so would compromise the integrity of the security arrangements of the individuals concerned.

On the issue of the costs of personal protection, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given on 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 885-86W.

Radicalism: Internet

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps her Department has taken against websites hosting content which promote violent radical activities linked to Islam. [31953]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The coalition Government take the threat of online Islamic extremism very seriously. Where unlawful content is hosted in the United Kingdom, the police are able to require its removal under powers provided in the Terrorism Act 2006. In cases where unlawful content is hosted overseas, we work closely with our international partners and the internet industry to effect their removal.

Special Constables

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many volunteers are registered to work for each police force. [32124]

Nick Herbert: The most recent figures for the numbers of special constables in each police force area in England and Wales as at 31 March 2010 are contained in the following table. These figures were published in July 2010 in the Home Office statistical bulletin 'Police Service Strength, England and Wales, 31 March 2010', which is available online at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1410.pdf

The Home Office does not collect figures on the numbers of voluntary police staff or voluntary police cadets.

Special constable strength as at 31 March 2010 by police force area, England and Wales

Police force	*Total strength*
Avon and Somerset	449
Bedfordshire	210
Cambridgeshire	167
Cheshire	300
Cleveland	238
Cumbria	115
Derbyshire	302
Devon and Cornwall	592
Dorset	300
Durham	131
Essex	682
Gloucestershire	167
Greater Manchester	400
Hampshire	449
Hertfordshire	344
Humberside	341
Kent	310
Lancashire	470
Leicestershire	240
Lincolnshire	163
London, City of	79
Merseyside	446
Metropolitan Police	3,177
Norfolk	266
Northamptonshire	180
Northumbria	178
North Yorkshire	184
Nottinghamshire	298
South Yorkshire	227
Staffordshire	334
Suffolk	328
Surrey	327
Sussex	240
Thames Valley	408
Warwickshire	212

Special constable strength as at 31 March 2010 by police force area, England and Wales

Police force	*Total strength*
West Mercia	233
West Midlands	591
West Yorkshire	421
Wiltshire	250
Dyfed-Powys	171
Gwent	144
North Wales	193
South Wales	248
Total all 43 forces	15,505

Note:
Special constable figures are given as headcount measures.

Terrorism: Islam

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on encouraging Muslim mosque leaders who expel extremists of their obligations to alert the appropriate authorities; and if she will make a statement. [32153]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* All institutions and citizens have a responsibility to alert the authorities about any threats to national security or public safety of which they become aware. The Home Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government actively support local partnerships of the police, local government and other statutory agencies to develop good relationships with community and faith organisations. This helps build the mutual trust and confidence important to creating communication channels in which information of relevance to the protection of the public can be shared.

Any member of the public can also report information to the National Terrorist Hotline and to Crimestoppers.

A review of Prevent is under way and the outcome will be announced in due course.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

21. **Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to withdraw planning circulars 04/2007 and 01/2006 on Gypsy and Traveller sites. [33565]

Robert Neill: The Government have announced their intention to withdraw circulars 01/2006 on Gypsy and Traveller sites and 04/2007 on Travelling Showpeople sites, subject to necessary impact assessments. The circulars will be replaced with a short, light-touch new policy. There will be a full public consultation on our proposed new policy shortly.

Local Authority Spending Details: Online Publication

22. **Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have published online details of their spending over £500 to date. [33566]

Mr Pickles: Our latest assessment is that at least 193 local authorities are publishing their spending data online.

Efficiency Savings

23. **Andrew Bridgen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to reward local authorities for making efficiencies. [33568]

Grant Shapps: This Government believe that efficiency is its own reward.

The public will not tolerate waste and duplication and will, rightly, hold their local authority to account for the decisions they take in relation to how services are managed. More councils should follow the example of authorities like West Oxfordshire and Cotswolds who are already sharing chief executives and a senior manager.

Regulatory Burden

24. **Jessica Lee:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the burden of regulation on local government. [33569]

Mr Pickles: This Government are committed to radically reducing the burden of regulation on local government. We have already freed councils from the top-down controls of comprehensive area assessment and local area agreement targets. The Localism Bill will go further, scrapping regional strategies and housing targets, the Standards Board regime, and the duty to promote local democracy.

Provision of Local Services

Nigel Adams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to encourage the provision of local services by community groups. [33549]

Greg Clark: The Localism Bill, which has its Second Reading today, includes a Community Right to Challenge. This will enable voluntary and community bodies, as well as parish councils and local authority employees, to express an interest in running a local authority service, which may trigger a procurement exercise for that service.

Affordable Housing: Construction

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new social home builds he expects to be started in *(a)* Gateshead local authority, *(b)* Tyne and Wear and *(c)* England in each year of the spending review period. [33202]

Andrew Stunell: In the spending review we announced almost £4.5 billion investment in new affordable housing to deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes. We are giving housing associations much more flexibility on rents and use of assets thus increasing their financial capacity, so our aspiration is to deliver as many as homes as possible through our investment and reforms. The number of homes started and delivered in each year will be dependent on agreements between housing associations and the Homes and Communities Agency, in consultation with local authorities.

Affordable Housing: Mortgages

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to allow those who purchased their home through the Homebuy scheme to apply for assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. [33520]

Andrew Stunell: The Government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme aims to help vulnerable homeowners who are at risk of repossession to remain in their home. This includes Homebuy purchasers who bought their home with the assistance of an equity loan. Eligible applicants are homeowners with dependent children, elderly and vulnerable groups who cannot afford their mortgage payments and who would be legally entitled to homelessness assistance if repossessed. Applicants for the scheme are considered by local authorities as part of their homelessness prevention duties.

Homebuy purchasers who buy on a shared ownership basis are not eligible for assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme because they already have additional protections through the support offered by housing associations, including flexible tenure arrangements under which their housing association landlord may buy back some or all of the shared owner's equity. Housing associations may reinvest capital grant to provide flexible tenure and, if this is not available, apply to the Homes and Communities Agency for funding on a case by case basis in order to assist a shared owner who meets the eligibility criteria for the national scheme.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his estimate is of the likely average change in the budgets of fire and rescue services in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [33022]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible for distributing central Government funding across the fire and rescue service in England. However individual fire and rescue authority budgets are made up of a number of elements in addition to central Government funding and all fire and rescue authority budgets are set by the individual authority, not by Government.

Fire Services: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many whole-time firefighters were employed by *(a)* the London Fire Brigade and *(b)* each metropolitan fire authority in each year since 1996. [34204]

Robert Neill: The numbers of whole-time firefighters employed by *(a)* the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and *(b)* each metropolitan fire authority in each year since 1996 are shown in the following table.

Whole-time firefighters (full-time equivalent) in metropolitan fire authorities, 1996 to 2010

At 31 March[1]:	*London FEPA*	*Greater Manchester*	*Merseyside*	*South Yorkshire*	*Tyne and Wear*	*West Midlands*	*West Yorkshire*
1996	6,235	2,173	1,485	888	1,057	2,089	1,758
1997	6,131	2,151	1,515	900	1,034	2,070	1,747
1998	5,909	2,150	1,481	916	1,023	2,044	1,723
1999	5,973	2,135	1,457	907	994	2,060	1,723
2000	5,639	2,071	1,420	919	1,017	2,033	1,680
2001	5,693	2,090	1,369	920	1,010	2,031	1,683
2002	5,913	2,148	1,317	923	1,009	2,028	1,660
2003	5,875	2,139	1,342	914	999	1,971	1,678
2004	5,986	2,100	1,319	916	970	1,968	1,653
2005	5,924	2,028	1,249	878	945	1,944	1,602
2006	5,953	1,900	1,148	870	921	1,836	1,550
2007	5,929	1,938	1,105	834	902	1,904	1,512
2008	5,910	1,943	1,044	834	912	1,937	1,501
2009	6,026	1,925	990	831	891	1,831	1,489
2010	5,900	1,887	923	786	867	1,868	1,476

[1] Data for 1996 to 1998 at 1 January.

Source:

Annual Returns to DCLG

Fire Services: Tyne and Wear

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the proposed budget reductions for Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service are twice the national average for fire and rescue service budget reductions. [33717]

Robert Neill: It is the responsibility of local authorities, including Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service to determine their budget, taking into account the amount of Government grant that they will receive and the income that they can raise.

Green Belt

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his policy is on the future of the green belt; [34193]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to protect the green belt in England. [34194]

Robert Neill: In the coalition agreement the Government committed themselves to maintaining the green belt. National planning policy on green belt is currently set out in PPG2 (Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, "Green Belts"), which establishes a presumption against inappropriate development on green belt land. Green belt prevents urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. Local planning authorities must have regard to PPG2 when plan-making or deciding planning proposals affecting green belt.

In December we announced the start of work to create a National Planning Policy Framework. As part of this process, we will consider how best to update green belt policy. The abolition of Regional Strategies via the Localism Bill will help protect the green belt by removing top-down directives to review or weaken green belt protection in over 30 towns and areas across England.

Local Government Finance

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was provided to each local authority in Supporting People Grant in the financial year 2010-11; and how much he plans to allocate to each local authority from that grant in the financial year 2011-12. [33066]

Robert Neill: In distributing the 2010-11 Supporting People allocations via Area Based Grant, the allocations to local authorities were damped to ensure that no authority received a large cut year-on-year. The damped 2010-11 allocations by local authority can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/xls/1536588ll.xls

Since Supporting People was one of the services transferred into formula grant from 2011-12 it is no longer damped separately but instead is included in the damping applied to total formula grant which also ensures that no authority receives a large cut year-on-year on a like-for-like basis. For this reason, and due to the fact that formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant, it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided to each local authority after floor damping for supporting people. The spending review has secured £6.5 billion of investment in supporting people over the next four years.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to enable local government capital receipts to be used for revenue functions in 2011-12. [33761]

Robert Neill: The use of capital receipts by local government for revenue purposes is capitalisation. Whether it is through borrowing or use of capital receipts, capitalisation counts as public spending, and has implications for the wider economy and national deficit reduction. As such it is strictly controlled and subject to an application process.

As announced in the spending review, there will be £200 million of capitalisation available in 2011-12, and the Government intend to issue full guidance in February.

Local Government Finance: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from Gateshead local authority following the provisional Local Government Finance settlement. [33203]

Robert Neill: I have not, as of 12 January 2011, received a representation from Gateshead council on the provisional Local Government Finance settlement for 2011-12. The consultation period on the settlement ends on 17 January 2011.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed reduction in formula grant funding for local authorities on Gateshead local authority; [33204]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of his Department's funding levels for local authorities on the community and voluntary sector in Gateshead. [33206]

Robert Neill: Spending decisions are, and will continue to be, a matter for local authorities, and we do not intend to place restrictions on any decisions they might make on funding, including grants to the voluntary sector. We do not expect authorities to respond to reductions in their budgets by passing on disproportionate cuts to other service providers, especially the voluntary sector.

Measures to be taken in the Localism Bill will establish new rights for voluntary and community groups to deliver local services. The Government have also created a Transition Fund that will support the voluntary and community sector during the first year of the spending review and have made available a transition grant of £85 million in 2012-13 and £14 million in 2012-13 to protect those authorities most in need.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the overall reduction in formula grant funding for Gateshead local authority over the spending review period is expected to fall in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [33205]

Robert Neill: Details of the provisional local government finance settlements for 2011-12 and 2012-13 can be found at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/grant.htm

Details of spending review departmental settlements are available on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spend_index.htm

Non-domestic Rates

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities collected more in non-domestic rates than they retained to be spent locally in 2009-10; and what net contribution each such local authority made to the Exchequer in 2009-10. [33007]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Corby (Ms Bagshawe) on 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 57W.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect of the reduction of the empty property rates threshold on the business sector. [33609][1]

Robert Neill: This Government recognise the problems caused by the previous Government's reforms of empty property rates.

Our ability to take action on this needs to be balanced against the costs involved, the targeted support that we have already provided on business rates and the overriding need to reduce public expenditure and support the economy generally by reducing the deficit.

We therefore have no immediate plans to reverse the reforms, and taking the above matters into consideration, the empty property rate threshold will revert to £2,600 from 1 April 2011. We will, however, certainly keep this matter under review.

No assessment has been made of the effect of the reduction of the empty property rates threshold on the business centre sector.

As I outlined in my written statement of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 61-62WS, it would cost £400 million to continue with the temporary empty rates measure, which unfortunately is not fiscally sustainable given the public finances that the new Government have inherited from the last Administration.

Planning

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to strengthen planning enforcement in relation to unauthorised development. [33800]

Robert Neill: The Government take the problem of unauthorised development seriously. The Localism Bill, introduced to Parliament on 13 December, includes provisions aimed at strengthening local planning authorities' powers to tackle the problem. A revised enforcement policy will be included in the National Planning Policy Framework and consulted on in due course.

Sure Start Programme: Hammersmith and Fulham

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what communications his Department has had with Hammersmith and Fulham council on Sure Start programmes since the date of the announcement of the provisional local government finance settlement for 2011-12. [33738]

Robert Neill: The Department holds no record of communications with representatives of London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham on Sure Start programmes since the provisional local government finance settlement was announced on 13 December 2010.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to local planning authorities on *(a)* distances from residential properties and *(b)* preservation of open land in relation to wind turbines; and if he will make a statement. [33834]

Robert Neill: Current planning policy for renewable energy is supported by a practice guide. The guide provides advice on how to implement the planning policy and avoid unacceptable impacts from wind turbines, including on residential property and open land. In doing so, the guidance provides advice on safe separation distances between wind turbines and occupied property and how to assess landscape and visual impacts.

PRIME MINISTER

Banks: Incentives

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister on which occasions he has discussed with the chief executives of *(a)* Royal Bank of Scotland Group, *(b)* Lloyds Banking Group and *(c)* Barclays (i) the bonuses paid to their staff and (ii) their personal bonus since 1 December 2010. [34025]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the list of official meetings by Ministers with external organisations which is published on a quarterly basis, in accordance with the Ministerial Code. I also refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my official spokesman on 12 January 2011. A copy of the transcript is available on the No. 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-briefings/2011/01/morning-press-briefing-from-12-ianuary-2011-58711

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions his office has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings his office was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions his office has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31926]

The Prime Minister: On 15 June 2010 I made a statement in relation to the publication of the Bloody Sunday report. With the agreement of the Speaker and under strictly controlled conditions, accredited media representatives were allowed advance sight of the report one hour before the oral statement. The embargo was not breached.

Local Government

Jon Trickett: To ask the Prime Minister which *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other events have been held at Downing street for local authority leaders and councillors and which have been attended by councillors and hon. Members since the general election. [33825]

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[1] *[Official Report, 26 January 2011, Vol. 522, c. 1MC.]*

The Prime Minister: Information on official and charity receptions held at 10 Downing street is published by means of an annual list as soon as it is ready at the end of the financial year.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Grand Committee System

Mr Offord: To ask the Leader of the House whether he has assessed the value for money of the Grand Committee system of the House. [33440]

Sir George Young: I have made no such assessment.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Speaker's Committee

Sir John Stanley: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, on what dates the Speaker's Committee on the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has met; and what the date is of its next meeting. [33332]

Mr Charles Walker: The Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority met on 30 June, 5 July, 6 July and 12 July 2010, as required by the statute in order to consider IPSA's draft estimate for 2010-11. No date has yet been announced for its next meeting, but the process for consideration of the 2011-12 draft estimate is expected to commence shortly.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Capita

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts his Department has with Capita; and how much it has paid to Capita under such contracts in 2010-11 to date. [18622]

Chris Grayling: I apologise for the delay in replying.

The Department for Work and Pensions has seven contracts with the Capita plc Group of companies. The contract descriptions and their actual spend in the financial year 1 April to 31 December 2010 are shown in the following table.

Contract name	*Spend (£)*
Professional and Specialist Interim Personnel	19,820,999
Record Storage	11,304,383
Principal Civil Service Pensions and Senior Level Recruitment	133,708
Recruitment	66,709
Voice Risk Analysis	10,543
Extending Working Life National Guidance Initiative	270,891
PPF Service Secure Environment	0
Total	31,607,233

Spend for April to December 2010-11 when compared to the same period last year has reduced by over 30% across these contracts and we continue to scrutinise all departmental expenditure with a view to driving out inefficiencies and delivering value for money for the taxpayer.

Council Tax Benefits

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the likely change in the level of *(a)* in-work and *(b)* child poverty in (i) Scotland, (ii) Wales, (iii) Northern Ireland, (iv) England and (v) the UK consequent on local authorities having discretion over levels of council tax benefit. [34042]

Steve Webb: We are still in the process of finalising decisions on the future of council tax benefit, including how it will be delivered. We will publish an impact assessment for the proposed changes to council tax benefit in the normal way, accompanying the relevant legislation when introduced in Parliament.

Crisis Loans

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many crisis loans his Department has issued to residents of *(a)* North West Durham constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England in the last 12 months. [32952]

Steve Webb: The information available is as follows:

Initial crisis loan awards made from January to December 2010

	Number
North East	173,360
England	2,188,620

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using official/national statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as official/national statistics and there are some issues with the data; for example, the numbers given do not include awards processed clerically which had not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.
2. The number of initial crisis loan awards is not available by constituency, but only by Government office region or Jobcentre Plus social fund budget area.
3. The North East has been interpreted as the Government office region of that name.
4. Numbers are for initial awards only and do not include awards made after review.
5. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest ten.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Employment Schemes: Further Education

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals Jobcentre Plus referred to a further education college for education and training in each region in each of the last five years. [32914]

Chris Grayling: This information is not available. Jobcentre Plus refers customers in England to Skills Funding Agency funded providers. Some of these are colleges and some of these are private sector providers, but Jobcentre Plus can not disaggregate referral data between college and non-college providers.

Employment Schemes: Watford

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Watford who have taken part in jobseekers' schemes delivered for his Department by Kennedy-Scott Ltd have found permanent employment since 2005. [34164]

Chris Grayling: We hold data on paid outcomes (not individuals) for contract package areas going back to 2007. We are unable to provide data in the form requested.

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department paid to Kennedy-Scott Ltd for the delivery of jobseekers' schemes in Watford in each year since 2005. [34165]

Chris Grayling: Information on spending in support of Welfare to Work programmes at a local level would be available only at a disproportionate cost. Our spending with Kennedy-Scott Ltd on Welfare to Work programmes on a national basis in each financial year since 2004-05 is provided in the following table.

Supplier: Kennedy-Scott Ltd

	Spend (£)
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	2,784,373
2008-09	2,023,484
2009-10	3,089,618
2010-11	2,267,297
Total	10,164,772

Fuel Poverty

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will discuss with the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland emergency measures to reduce fuel poverty in households as a result of recent extreme cold temperatures; and if he will make a statement. [33619]

Steve Webb: The Government remain committed to doing all that is reasonably practicable to help eradicate fuel poverty and we are currently considering the ways in which we can make further progress towards our 2016 (2018 in Wales) fuel poverty target.

The cold weather payment scheme provides financial support for the most vulnerable during periods of exceptionally cold weather. So far this winter we have provided over £440 million of support across the UK through the scheme. In addition, this Government have made permanent the previously temporary increase to £25 in the weekly cold weather payment amount.

The Government have also made a commitment to protect financial support provided via the winter fuel payment, which makes a significant contribution towards winter fuel bills. For winter 2010-11, individuals who have reached women's state pension age will receive this payment worth £250 for households with someone aged up to 79, and £400 for households with someone aged 80 or over. Each winter we spend around £2.7 billion on more than 12 million payments.

My Department works closely with other Government Departments on this issue and has regular discussions with other Ministers.

Funeral Payments

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what financial support his Department provides to terminally-ill people without an estate, next of kin or life insurance to assist in making funeral arrangements. [27322]

Steve Webb: I apologise for the delay in replying.

We do not provide any financial support to people who wish to make their own funeral arrangements.

The social fund funeral payment scheme provides a contribution towards the costs of a simple, respectful low-cost funeral. This payment is available to people who receive income-related benefits and tax credits (or the partners of such people) who take responsibility for the funeral of a close relative or close friend.

Headaches

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to reduce the number of working days lost due to headaches and migraines. [31482]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

Most headaches are harmless and can be relieved with self-help measures and pharmacy painkillers. Only a few (around 5%) are a sign that something is seriously wrong. These more serious headaches are often accompanied by other warning signs.

The key to reducing the number of working days lost to headaches and migraines is ensuring that patients are able to access help and support from a general practitioner, or migraine clinic, to effectively manage their condition.

Housing Benefit

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in housing benefit to individuals in *(a)* Northumberland county and *(b)* the UK in each of the last five years. [23041]

Steve Webb: I apologise for the delay in replying.

The information requested can be found in the following table. DWP only covers Great Britain, figures for which are supplied below. Spending in Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Executive.

Housing benefit expenditure, nominal terms

£ million

	Great Britain	*Northumberland county*
2005-06	13,928	48
2006-07	14,841	50
2007-08	15,732	52

Housing benefit expenditure, nominal terms

	Great Britain	£ million Northumberland county
2008-09	17,103	58
2009-10	19,978	69

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest million.

2. Housing benefit expenditure tables can also be found at the following URL: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=hbandctb_expenditure *Source:* Local Authority Subsidy Returns.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to support the direct payment of housing benefit to private landlords. [31515]

Steve Webb: We continue to support the principle that tenants in the private rented sector should be responsible for managing their rental payments. There are safeguards in place so that housing benefit can be paid to the landlord if the tenant is unable or unlikely to pay their rent. Benefit is also paid direct to the landlord if the tenant is in arrears by eight weeks' rent.

From April 2011 we are widening local authority discretion to pay housing benefit direct to the landlord only if it would help the customer secure a new tenancy or remain in their current home at a reduced rent. We will work closely with local authorities to ensure this provision is used in very specific circumstances where landlords are reducing rents to a level that is affordable for customers.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local housing allowance claims where the claimant was *(a)* in work and on non-passported benefits, *(b)* not working and on non-passported benefit, *(c)* in receipt of income-based jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* in receipt of income-related jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance and *(e)* in receipt of pension guarantee credit in each local authority area over the reference period for his Department's impact assessment on local housing allowance. [31808]

Steve Webb *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* I apologise for the delay in replying.

A copy of the information has been placed in the Library.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to exempt families with children from his proposed reduction in housing benefit for people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than one year. [33300]

Steve Webb: We are carefully considering the impact on benefit customers as we develop the detailed policy for introduction of this measure in the Welfare Reform Bill. People for whom jobseeker's allowance is not appropriate, including lone parent families with very young children aged less than five, will not be affected.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the Wirral borough council area, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK are in receipt of housing benefit; [33866]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the Wirral borough council area, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK are in receipt of housing benefit and have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for 12 months or more. [33867]

Steve Webb: Information is not available for those housing benefit recipients who also have JSA nor is the information available by constituency.

The data we have are shown in the following table:

Housing benefit recipients September 2010

	Total HB recipients
Great Britain	4,797,460
North-west	607,010
Wirral local authority	29,930

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

3. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and September 2010 are the latest available.

4. Housing benefit caseload and average weekly amounts are available at local authority area level and these are published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp

5. At present geographic breakdowns are available at local authority or regional level, as data are provided by local authorities.

Housing Benefit: Expenditure

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in his Department's expenditure on housing benefit attributable to rent reductions in the 12 months following the implementation of his reforms to housing benefit. [26090]

Steve Webb: I apologise for the delay in replying.

The information is not available.

Housing benefit expenditure has risen from £11 billion in 2000-01 to an expected £21.5 billion in 2010-11 in cash terms.

The package of measures announced in the June Budget and being introduced for the local housing allowance in 2011-12, including the removal of the £15 excess planned by the previous Administration, will achieve savings of around £1 billion by 2015-16. The other changes to housing benefit announced in the June Budget are estimated to save a further £1.1 billion in 2015-16. Overall, this represents a reduction of 9% in the total 2015-16 expenditure on housing benefit.

Housing Benefit: Kilmarnock

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who are *(a)* not of working age, *(b)* in work and *(c)* not in work are in receipt of housing benefit in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency. [17128]

Steve Webb: I apologise for the delay in replying.

The information requested is not available at the constituency level.

From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed housing benefit/council tax benefit data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics, as the information supplied is quality assured.

Housing benefit caseload and average weekly amounts are available at local authority area level and these are published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp

At present geographic breakdowns are available only for local authorities and regions. However, an exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the data, including parliamentary constituencies.

Housing Benefit: Liverpool

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many housing benefit claimants in *(a)* Liverpool, Wavertree constituency and *(b)* Liverpool receive a weekly excess of £15 or less. [31778]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12' on 23 July. Based on this analysis, in March 2010, around 6,320 housing benefit recipients on the local housing allowance in Liverpool local authority receive a weekly excess of £15 or lower and will be affected by the removal of the excess.

This information is not available at constituency level.

Housing Benefit: Pensioners

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the number of pensioners whose income is likely to fall below the 60 per cent. median poverty line as a result of the *(a)* proposed weekly cap on housing benefit and *(b)* up-rating of housing benefit with reference to the consumer price index. [18601]

Steve Webb: I apologise for the delay in replying.

The information is not available in the format requested.

On 23 July, the Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance" to be introduced in 2011-12, which includes detailed analysis of the impacts of the June Budget measures. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit: Personnel

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of local authority staff employed to administer *(a)* housing and *(b)* council tax benefit. [25035]

Steve Webb: I apologise for the delay in replying.

The Department for Work and Pensions estimates that 20,000 local authority staff work on housing benefit and council tax benefit. The processing of these benefits is largely combined and therefore we do not have an estimate of the number of staff working on each benefit.

However, these individuals may have many other functions, depending on how local authorities choose to organise their staff. The Department holds no estimate of the proportion of time these workers spend administering these benefits. To develop one would be an enormous undertaking and incur disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit: Poverty

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood of 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 820-1W, on housing benefit: poverty, if he will place in the Library a copy of the initial assessment of the effects on child poverty of his Department's planned changes to housing benefit. [33400]

Steve Webb: The initial assessment of the effects on child poverty of the housing benefit reforms showed that over the next three years there is no measurable impact of the emergency Budget HB reforms on relative child poverty rates.

This analysis will be provided to the House of Commons Library but it should be noted that the impact of the housing benefit measures should not be considered in isolation of the wider package of measures that have been announced, in particular the extra money distributed to families with children through the tax credit system.

Housing Benefit: St Albans

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in housing benefit to individuals in the St Albans district council area in each year from 1996-97 to 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [23301]

Steve Webb: I apologise for the delay in replying.

The information requested can be found in the following table.

St Albans

	HB expenditure nominal terms (£ million)
1996-97	13.9
1997-98	13.6
1998-99	13.1
1999-2000	12.9
2000-01	13.0
2001-02	13.3
2002-03	14.7
2003-04	14.9
2004-05	15.6
2005-06	17.1
2006-07	18.5
2007-08	19.9
2008-09	21.8
2009-10	25.4

Source:
Local Authority Subsidy Returns

Housing benefit expenditure tables can be found at the following URL:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=hbandctb_expenditure

Housing Benefit: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid on average in *(a)* local housing allowance and *(b)* housing benefit to recipients in each type of housing tenure in Sunderland Central constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [30364]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

At present geographic breakdowns are only available for local authorities and regions. However, an exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the data, including parliamentary constituencies.

Housing Benefit: Unemployed People

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of recipients of jobseeker's allowance receive housing benefit. [29024]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

Information is collected on the number of claimants in receipt of a passported benefit, however this information has not yet been quality assured to National Statistics standard.

From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed housing benefit and council tax benefit data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics.

Income Support: Mortgages

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of recipients of Support for Mortgage Interest who receive less in support than the amount of mortgage interest they pay as a result of the recent reduction in the interest rate at which payment is made; and if he will make a statement. [20991]

Steve Webb: I apologise for the delay in replying.

This information is not available because the Department does not collect management information on the actual interest rates that apply to support for mortgage interest customers' loans.

Industrial Health and Safety: EU Law

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to implement the recommendation in Lord Young's report on health and safety that the UK should take the lead in co-operating with other member states to ensure the EU health and safety rules for low risk businesses are not overly prescriptive, are proportionate and do not attempt to achieve the elimination of all risk. [31512]

Chris Grayling: The Government very much welcome Lord Young's recommendation in this area and I, with support from the Health and Safety Executive, will take it forward. The UK continues to be supportive of the opinion of the European Commission's High-Level Group of Independent Stakeholders on Administrative Burdens, which has proposed an exemption for 'very small firms undertaking certain low risk activities' from the requirement to possess a record of the risk assessment. The European Commission is undertaking an evaluation of the costs and benefits of this requirement, with which the UK will be closely involved.

Jobcentre Plus: Greater London

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the running cost was of each Jobcentre Plus service in each Jobcentre in the London borough of *(a)* Barnet, *(b)* Islington, *(c)* Bromley, *(d)* Lewisham, *(e)* Lambeth, *(f)* Brent, *(g)* Ealing, *(h)* Hammersmith and Fulham and *(i)* Hounslow in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [33639]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what the running cost was of each Jobcentre Plus service in each Jobcentre in the London Borough of (a) Barnet (b) Islington (c) Bromley (d) Lewisham (e) Lambeth (f) Brent (g) Ealing (h) Hammersmith and Fulham and (i) Hounslow in the last 12 months for which figures are available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The running costs for the Jobcentre Plus staff based at the specified 27 sites for the year 2009/10 are listed in the table in Annex 1. These include both salary costs and associated discretionary spend. In the interests of transparency estimates of the costs for the Jobcentre Plus staff at these 27 sites for year to date 30th November 2010 have also been obtained, but has not been formally reported or subject to audit review.

Jobcentre Plus is an agency of the Department for Work and Pensions and many costs are reported outside of Jobcentre Plus at the Department level. The totals in Annex 1 do not, therefore, include charges from DWP for elements such as estate costs, information technology services costs or other items handled at a Departmental level.

Annex 1: Running costs for selected Jobcentre Plus sites

London borough	*Jobcentre*	*Running cost (£) 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010*	*Estimated cost (£) 1 April 2010 to 30 November 2010*
Barnet	Barnet Hill	1,873,464	1,356,526
	Edgware	1,500,574	1,052,917
	Finchley	1,266,361	881,422
	Hendon	2,170,287	1,549,060
Islington	Barnsbury	2,978,357	2,115,081
	Finsbury	2,729,964	1,892,733
	Highgate	2,934,098	2,175,196
Bromley	Bromley	4,709,409	3,256,903
Lewisham	Deptford	1,852,641	1,205,344
	Forest Hill	1,996,506	1,482,074
	Lewisham	3,886,285	2,764,628
Lambeth	Brixton	2,992,166	1,958,180

Annex 1: Running costs for selected Jobcentre Plus sites

London borough	*Jobcentre*	*Running cost (£) 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010*	*Estimated cost (£) 1 April 2010 to 30 November 2010*
	Clapham Common	1,946,450	1,586,575
	Kennington Park	2,079,642	1,278,888
	Stockwell	1,699,054	1,124,330
	Streatham	4,509,279	3,072,891
Brent	Harlesden	2,078,702	1,426,468
	Kilburn	1,812,340	1,252,010
	Wembley	1,796,556	1,301,668
	Willesden	2,119,719	1,374,275
Ealing	Acton	1,902,518	1,435,419
	Ealing	3,266,827	2,307,488
	Southall	2,026,719	1,481,080
Hammersmith and Fulham	Fulham	1,892,106	1,321,170
	Hammersmith	1,607,528	1,141,961
	Shepherds Bush	1,555,067	1,008,040
Hounslow	Hounslow	3,432,933	2,448,901

Source data:
Oracle Financial Analyser (OFA)

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost per square metre was of each of the Jobcentre premises in the London borough of *(a)* Barnet, *(b)* Islington, *(c)* Bromley, *(d)* Lewisham, *(e)* Lambeth, *(f)* Brent, *(g)* Ealing, *(h)* Hammersmith and Fulham and *(i)* Hounslow in 2009-10. [33640]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the cost per square metre was of each of the Jobcentre premises in the London Borough of (a) Barnet (b) Islington (c) Bromley (d) Lewisham (e) Lambeth (f) Brent (g) Ealing (h) Hammersmith and Fulham and (i) Hounslow in 2009-10. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The facility unit cost which includes the service accommodation costs per square metre of the specified 27 sites for the year 2009/10 are listed below in the following table:

Cost per square metre 2009-10

	Cost per m^2 (£)
(a) London borough of Barnet	
Barnet Hill	341.20
Edgware	402.41
Hendon	368.43
Finchley	476.18
(b) London borough of Islington	
Highgate	340.08
Barnsbury	403.73
Finsbury	403.76
(c) London borough of Bromley	
Bromley	531.39
(d) London borough of Lewisham	
Lewisham	406.18
Forest Hill	337.15
Deptford	352.52
(e) London borough of Lambeth	
Streatham	413.18
Brixton	588.08
Kennington Park	577.30
Stockwell	584.66
Clapham Common	484.44
(f) London borough of Brent	
Willesden (Neasden)	380.32
Harlesden	354.85
Kilburn	529.65
Wembley	453.22
(g) London borough of Ealing	
Ealing	577.56
Southall	400.97
Acton	576.67
(h) London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	
Hammersmith	490.15
Fulham	357.98
Shepherd's Bush	624.05
(i) London borough of Hounslow	
Hounslow	401.26

Source:
DWP Commercial Directorate Estates Charging Database

Jobseeker's Allowance

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent assessment of the merits of reviewing the two-year national insurance assessment period in respect of contributions-based jobseeker's allowance; and whether he has made a recent assessment of the effects of that arrangement on mature graduate students who have taken a career break to study. [33148]

Chris Grayling: The contribution conditions for jobseeker's allowance were reviewed in 2010, resulting in the Social Security (Contribution Conditions for Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance) Regulations 2010/2446, which came into effect on 1 November 2010.

Those regulations broadly aligned the contribution conditions for jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance, strengthening the connection between recent employment and contributory benefits, and making the system fairer and simpler.

A person who fails to meet the contribution conditions may be eligible for income-based jobseeker's allowance.

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* each region in England were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many of these in each category were in receipt of housing benefit in the same period. [33838]

Steve Webb: The following table provides the number of people in (a) the UK, (b) each region of England, (c) Scotland and (d) Wales who are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance.

The information on jobseeker's allowance claimants also in receipt of housing benefit is not available. Information is collected on the number of housing benefit claimants in receipt of a passporting benefit, which includes income-based jobseeker's allowance. However, the total number of jobseeker's allowance claimants receiving housing benefit is not available.

Government office region	*Caseload*
North-east	80,900
North-west	178,900
Yorkshire and The Humber	144,300
East midlands	96,800
West midlands	157,900
East	108,600
London	216,300
South-east	131,700
South-west	82,000
Wales	71,200
Scotland	135,600
United Kingdom	1,462,700

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. United Kingdom figures include Northern Ireland.
3. These figures are published at:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp
Source:
NOMIS Claimant Count (Seasonally Adjusted), November 2010.

Life Expectancy

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the (i) life expectancy and (ii) healthy and disability-free life expectancy of people in each social cohort. [19469]

Steve Webb: I apologise for the delay in replying.

Data published by the Office for National Statistics constitute the Department's main source of information on life expectancy and on healthy and disability-free life expectancy. To help evaluate improvements in life expectancy of people in each social cohort, the Department has commissioned the Office for National Statistics to produce from its Longitudinal Study detailed life tables covering the periods from 1977-81 to 2002-05.

These data will be published as part of the Government's full response to the review of state pension age. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Members: Correspondence

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Hastings and Rye of 30 September 2010, reference AR/TS/305. [33768]

Steve Webb: I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member.

A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 13 January 2011.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he made of the monetary value of support for mortgage interest payments made to claimants in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency in each of the last five years. [17125]

Steve Webb: I apologise for the delay in replying.

The information is as follows:

Average weekly payments of support for mortgage interest in Kilmarnock and Loudoun, February 2006 to February 2010

£

February	*Income support*	*Jobseeker's allowance*	*Pension credit*
2006	27.36	[1]—	14.81
2007	30.01	[1]—	17.99
2008	32.74	[1]—	17.81
2009	35.68	[1]—	19.94
2010	35.56	[1]—	16.90

[1] Nil or negligible claimants receiving jobseeker's allowance, so average amounts not included for these customers.

Notes:
1. Average weekly amounts are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
2. Figures have been up-rated using 5% proportions against 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) totals.
3. For jobseekers allowance mortgage interest can be claimed only on income-based jobseeker's allowance.
4. Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced minimum income guarantee (income support for people aged 60 or over). The vast majority of people who were previously in receipt of the minimum income guarantee transferred to pension credit in October 2003.
5. Monthly figures are not available therefore the last four quarters data have been provided.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% samples.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency received support for mortgage interest payments in each of the last five years. [17126]

Steve Webb: I apologise for the delay in replying.

The information is as follows:

Number of support for mortgage interest claimants in Kilmarnock and Loudoun, February 2006 to February 2010

Number

February	*Income support*	*Jobseeker's allowance*	*Pension credit*
2006	[1]200	[2]—	[1]400
2007	[1]200	[2]—	500
2008	[1]100	[2]—	500
2009	[1]100	[2]—	500
2010	[1]100	[2]—	[1]400

[1] Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.

[2] Nil or negligible claimants receiving jobseeker's allowance.

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures have been up-rated using 5% proportions against 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) totals.
3. For jobseeker's allowance mortgage interest can be claimed only on income-based jobseeker's allowance.
4. Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced minimum income guarantee (income support for people aged 60 or over). The vast majority of people who were previously in receipt of the minimum income guarantee transferred to pension credit in October 2003.
5. Monthly figures are not available therefore the last four quarters data have been provided.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% samples.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 167-8W, on mortgages: Government assistance, what progress he has made on exploring the scope for mortgage lenders to freeze benefit claimants' mortgage accounts and apply a standard interest rate for a fixed period; and if he will make a statement. [33340]

Steve Webb: We are continuing to look at a number of options for support for mortgage interest, including assessing the scope for mortgage lenders to freeze benefit claimants' mortgage accounts. There are a number of possible solutions, and it will take time to reach a sensible conclusion on the long-term future design of support for homeowners.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 167W, on mortgages: Government assistance, when he expects to publish the results of the model to estimate the effects of changes to support for mortgage interest on the number of repossessions; and for what purposes his Department plans to utilise this model. [33341]

Steve Webb: The Department is in the process of developing a model to estimate the impact of changes to Support for Mortgage Interest on the number of repossessions. However, any estimates will always be limited since detailed case-by-case information, such as arrears at the start of a claim, is not collected by the Department. Furthermore, the relationship between arrears and continued home ownership is a complex one dependent on more than the level of Support for Mortgage Interest payable.

The Department intends to use this model for internal policy development, appraisal and evaluation, but we will consider whether the results are robust enough to be used publicly, and the findings placed in the Library, once this work is complete, which we would expect to be in spring 2011.

Pensioners: Poverty

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners living in poverty in each year from 2011 to 2020. [34027]

Steve Webb: The Department does not publish projections on pensioner poverty and has not produced long-term trend estimates of pensioner poverty that take full account of current and announced policies.

The Government have restored the earnings link for the basic state pension with a triple guarantee that the basic state pension will increase by the highest of the growth in average earnings, prices (as measured by the consumer prices index) or 2.5%. We estimate this will mean that the average person reaching state pension age in 2011 will receive an additional £15,000 in basic state pension over their retirement than they would have done under the old prices link.

The Government are protecting key benefits for pensioners. Free eye tests; free prescription charges; free bus passes; free television licences for the over 75s; and winter fuel payments will remain exactly as budgeted for by the previous Government—as we promised. We have also made the temporary increase in the cold weather payment to £25 permanent.

We want to ensure that older people receive the help that they are entitled to, and we are conducting a research study into the feasibility of using existing data to help to improve the take-up of pension credit.

We will help prevent people from falling into poverty in later life by simplifying the rules and regulations relating to pensions to help reinvigorate occupational pensions. We will encourage companies to offer high-quality pensions to all employees and, from October 2012, all employers will be required to automatically enrol their eligible workers into a qualifying workplace pension scheme. We expect this to radically increase the number of people saving into a pension and lead to between 4 million and 8 million people newly saving or saving more in all forms of workplace pension schemes.

All these changes will have a positive impact on pensioners' incomes.

Pensions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in lifetime pension incomes of retired households in each income decile that will result from his Department's plans to accelerate the increase in the age at which *(a)* people become entitled to guarantee credit and *(b)* women become entitled to the basic state pension. [33394]

Steve Webb: The information required is not available in the form requested on a household basis.

The impact assessment published as part of the White Paper 'A sustainable State Pension: when the State Pension age will increase to 66' included information on the proportionate change in lifetime pension income for hypothetical high, median and low earning individual men and women resulting from the increase in state pension age and pension credit qualifying age.

Poverty: EU Action

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department is making on the determination of *(a)* targets and *(b)* indicators to measure its contribution to the EU strategy against poverty. [33468]

Chris Grayling: As part of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable growth EU Heads agreed in June 2010 to a number of EU level targets, including "promoting social inclusion, in particular through the reduction of poverty, by aiming to lift at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and exclusion". The at-risk population is defined as the number of persons who are at risk of poverty and exclusion according to three indicators:

at risk of poverty, defined as those falling below 60% of national median income;

material deprivation, defined as those missing four out of nine items from a specified list; or

living in a jobless household, i.e., all adults in the household are working for less than 20% of available time.

These headline indicators, as well as a number of subsidiary indicators, are published by Eurostat. Both the target and the indicators are EU-wide and progress will be aggregated across all 27 member states.

In contributing to the EU ambition, member states are free to set their own national targets on the basis of the most appropriate indicators, taking account of their national circumstances and priorities. The UK contribution will be:

The proportion of children living in workless households; and

The Child Poverty Act Commitment to ending child poverty by 2020.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent progress he has made on the implementation in the UK of the EU strategy against poverty. [33469]

Chris Grayling: There is no top-down EU strategy against poverty. Rather the UK has, along with all other member states, decided its own national strategy which will contribute to the overall EU 2020 poverty strategy. The UK has decided to target the proportion of children living in workless households in conjunction with achieving the aims of the Child Poverty Act 2010, which requires that the child poverty rate is among the best in Europe by the year 2020.

The Government are now considering the report on poverty and life chances by the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) and will respond to the report in the Child Poverty Strategy. The report makes recommendations about measures that the Government will need to explore before deciding its preferred way forward, along with all the other issues that the strategy will cover. It did not suggest abandoning the 2020 targets and the Government's commitment to eradicating child poverty by 2020 has not diminished.

The UK will be providing details of its strategy for contributing to the EU-wide target on poverty and social exclusion in the National Reform Programme which will be submitted to Commission in April 2011.

Remploy: Bonuses

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid in bonuses to the *(a)* senior management and *(b)* directors of Remploy in each year since 2008. [30892]

Maria Miller *[holding answer 14 December 2010]:* The available information on bonuses paid to Remploy senior management and directors is detailed in the following table:

Financial year	*Managers*	*Directors*	*Total (£)*
2007-08	1,656,501	110,600	1,767,101
2008-09	589,000	72,000	661,000
2009-10	1,315,000	51,000	1,366,000

Note:
Figures for 2008-09 and 2009-10 have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.
Source:
Remploy

Retirement: Age

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has in respect of changes to the age of retirement for those who started their working lives at the age of 14 years. [33686]

Steve Webb: The school leaving age was raised to 15 in 1947 and to 16 from September 1972. Therefore no one with a school leaving age of 14 is affected by either the current or proposed changes to state pension age.

The changes we have announced, to bring forward the timing of the increase in state pension age to 66, will affect people born between April 1953 and April 1960. These changes are necessary to keep the state pension system sustainable and fair to each generation as average life expectancy increases.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which categories of households will be exempt from the household benefit cap to be implemented in 2013. [29025]

Steve Webb: The cap will only apply to working age households. There will be an exemption for war widows and households with a member entitled to disability living allowance or working tax credit.

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that digitisation of the benefits system does not disadvantage older claimants. [33288]

Steve Webb: We are always seeking to improve accessibility of our communications and services which means that increasingly we make use of digital media. We recognise, however, that older people in particular make less use of the internet, so we will ensure that our plans do not introduce inequality and disadvantage, and cater for the needs of older people. We will continue to consult customers, and work closely with organisations which represent them, as we develop new services and processes to ensure that we continue to meet their needs.

In addition, the Pensions Disability and Carers Service and Jobcentre Plus commitments to Race Online 2012 recognise that we need to support customers to help them take advantage of online services. Through projects like Get Digital, which seeks to help people in sheltered housing get online, and by working closely with key partner organisations like the BBC and Digital Unite to support their initiatives such as First Click and Silver Surfer's Day, we are helping to provide older people with the skills and access to IT that will enable them to use digital services if they wish.

State Retirement Pensions: Payments

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the public purse of the payment of pensions one week in arrears. [33670]

Steve Webb: State pension has been paid in arrears to people reaching state pension age on or after 6 April 2010. Payments can be made four weekly, fortnightly or weekly. Payments to existing pensioners were unaffected. No estimate has been made of potential savings arising from this change. We expect that the change to payment in arrears will be cost-effective in the longer term because it makes it more likely that the Department can action any necessary changes before a payment is issued, thus reducing the number of overpayments and in particular reducing the distress which may be caused when overpayments are made following a death.

Travel to Interview

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will introduce guidance to ensure that the travel costs of attending job interviews by those who are out of work and who were previously self-employed are met by potential employers. [33804]

Chris Grayling: For people receiving a qualifying benefit discretionary help with expenses for attending job interviews is available through the Travel to Interview Scheme (TIS) administered by Jobcentre Plus (JCP). Payment under TIS in respect of these costs is subject to certain conditions including whether or not there is a reasonable prospect of employment and the prospective employer itself will reimburse the travel costs. Reimbursement by employers is a matter for them.

Universal Credit

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to include child tax credit and childcare tax credit within his proposed universal credit. [33299]

Chris Grayling: We announced in the White Paper 'Universal Credit: Welfare That Works' that we will include fixed amounts within universal credit to cover children's living costs, based on those currently provided through child tax credit. They will be additional to child benefit.

As promised in the White Paper, we are working with key stakeholders to establish how support for child care costs could best be delivered as part of, or alongside, universal credit. We continue to work on this and will set out our conclusions in the coming months.

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 137-8W, on universal credit, whether his calculation of the marginal reduction rate before full implementation of universal credit includes the 20 per cent. council tax benefit taper. [34254]

Chris Grayling: All analysis presented to date includes the 20% council tax benefit taper when calculating marginal deduction rates in the current tax and benefit system. It has also been assumed for modelling purposes that council tax benefit is included within the universal credit and is subject to the single overall taper of 65% when calculating marginal deduction rates under universal credit.

The Government's recent announcement that they would give local authorities more say on the administration of council tax benefit will have implications for universal credit. As stated in the recent White Paper 'Universal Credit: Welfare That Works', the Government will work closely with local government and the devolved Administrations to develop the details of the proposal and to ensure that this reform does not undermine the positive impact of universal credit on work incentives.

Welfare State: Reform

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department plans to publish the draft regulations for the proposed Welfare Reform Bill. [33650]

Chris Grayling: We will shortly introduce the Welfare Reform Bill. Additional information on the regulation making powers included in the Bill will be made available in the Delegated Powers Memorandum which will be published alongside the Welfare Reform Bill on introduction.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Childhood and Families Taskforce

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how many meetings of the Childhood and Families Taskforce have taken place; who attended each meeting; and what was discussed on each occasion; [32853]

(2) what work has been completed by the Childhood and Families Taskforce; and if he will make a statement. [32854]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The work of the Childhood and Families Taskforce is ongoing. Any work completed by the taskforce will be announced by Government in the usual manner.

It is longstanding Government practice not to disclose information relating to ministerial meetings, including the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees, as to do so would put at risk the public interest in the full and frank discussion of policy by Ministers.

Constituencies

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975 to lower the limit on the number of Government Ministers in line with his proposed reduction in the number of parliamentary constituencies. [33068]

Mr Harper: The Government have been clear that they recognise the principle that there is a link between the legislature and the size of the Executive; but this issue does not need to be resolved now, since the reduction in the size of the House of Commons would not take effect until 2015. The Government intend to reflect on the arguments made during the passage of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, and set out their plans once there is greater clarity on the composition of the second Chamber, including how many Ministers would be drawn from there. The Government remains committed to strengthening Parliament in relation to the Executive.

House of Commons: Reform

Mr Offord: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for the political and constitutional reforms proposed in the coalition agreement; and if he will make a statement. [32745]

Mr Harper: The political and constitutional reforms proposed in the coalition agreement are proceeding apace.

The Government have introduced several of the Bills which were foreshadowed in the coalition agreement. This includes the Fixed-term Parliaments Bill and the Scotland Bill, which gives effect to proposals from the Calman Commission. The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, to introduce a referendum on using the Alternative Vote for elections to this House, as well as fewer and more equal sized constituencies, has been passed by the House of Commons. We have introduced the Localism Bill which will devolve greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods and give local communities more control over housing and planning decisions, and the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, which will among other matters introduce elected police commissioners.

The Government have also implemented recommendations of the Committee on Reform of the House of Commons, including the establishment of a Backbench Business Committee and facilitating the election of chairs and members of Select Committees. Parliament has approved the regulations necessary for the referendum on further devolution in Wales, which will take place on 3 March 2011.

This year the Government will set out their plans in more areas, including publishing legislation in draft on the recall of MPs, on speeding up the move to individual electoral registration, and on the reform of the House of Lords, and consulting on a statutory register of lobbyists.

Mr Offord: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the effects on levels of public expenditure of implementation of his proposals to reduce the size of the House of Commons to 600. [32747]

Mr Harper: We estimate that the total cost of the next boundary reviews in each part of the UK will be £11.2 million. This includes the costs of staffing, accommodation, IT, printing, production of maps, advertising and publishing the final reports. Under the terms of the legislation presently in force, (Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986), and on the basis of the duration of the fifth general review in each part of the UK, we estimate that a general review would commence in any event within the next three years in England and in Scotland; and in the next five years in Wales and in Northern Ireland. The total cost of the fifth reviews in each part of the UK was £13.6 million.

We estimate (subject to decisions made by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority) that 50 fewer MPs would result in a saving of £12.2 million annually, made up of reduced salary costs of £4.1 million and £8.1 million in reduced expenditure on MPs' expenses.

House of Lords: Reform

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made on developing proposals for a wholly or mainly elected second Chamber. [33656]

Mr Harper: The cross-party Committee, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, is considering proposals for a wholly or mainly elected second Chamber. We will publish a draft Bill early this year. The Bill will then be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny by, we hope, a joint committee of both Houses.

Mental Health Act 1983

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to review the operation of section 141 of the Mental Health Act 1983. [33991]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering the operation of section 141 of the Mental Health Act 1983, and hope to make an announcement shortly.

Parliament: Reform

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the potential saving to the public purse of his plans to reduce the size of the House of Commons; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of increasing the size of the House of Lords. [33704]

Mr Harper: We estimate (subject to decisions made by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority) that 50 fewer MPs would result in a saving of £12.2 million annually, made up of reduced salary costs of £4.1 million and £8.1 million in reduced expenditure on MPs' expenses.

The cross-party Committee on House of Lords reform, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, is considering the size of a reformed second chamber and other issues which will determine the overall cost. The Government will publish an estimate of the costs alongside a draft Bill early this year.

Urban Areas

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when the result of the city status competition will be announced. [33664]

Mr Harper: The result of the competition for a grant of city status to mark HM the Queen's diamond jubilee will be announced in the early months of jubilee year, 2012.

Voting Rights: Offenders

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward proposals to give judges discretion to determine at the point of sentencing whether offenders sentenced to a custodial term have the right to vote while in custody; and if he will make a statement. [33614]

Mr Harper: As I announced by written ministerial statement on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 150-151WS, the Government intend to implement the Hirst judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in a way that meets our legal obligations, but does not go further than that.

The Government's proposed legislation will provide that offenders sentenced to a custodial sentence of four years or more will lose the right to vote in all circumstances, reflecting the seriousness of the offence that resulted in their imprisonment.

Additionally, the sentencing judge will be able to remove the right to vote from offenders sentenced to a custodial sentence of less than four years if they consider that appropriate. We are considering what criteria judges should apply when exercising their discretion in such cases.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

China: Overseas Aid

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects his Department's bilateral aid programmes in China to end. [34159]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's bilateral aid programmes in China will end in March 2011.

Civil Society Challenge Fund

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 209W, on the Civil Society Challenge Fund, which trade unions received funding from the Fund in 2009-10; and how much funding each such union received. [33877]

Mr O'Brien: Details of funding to trade unions through the Civil Society Challenge Fund for 2009-10 are available in the Library of the House.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is reviewing all of its aid programmes, including aid channelled through trade unions, to ensure that it makes a real difference to the world's poorest people.

Developing Countries: Children

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to increase the priority given to programmes relating to children within his Department's work; and if he will appoint an individual to champion children within his Department. [31513]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government recognise the importance of focusing on the rights of women, children and disabled people to access services for achievement of the millennium development goals (MDGs). The Department for International Development's (DFID) Business Plan 2011-15 prioritises support for the MDGs and includes specific objectives to increase access to education and reduce infant mortality. However, all of the MDGs have an impact on children. There are no current plans to appoint an individual to champion children within DFID as considerations for the rights and issues surrounding child poverty are already addressed in all aspects of the Department's work.

DFID is currently reviewing its aid programmes to ensure we continue to fund the most effective means of achieving the MDGs. The review will conclude in February 2011.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to encourage multilateral development banks to provide further support for investment and lending for the purpose of mitigating climate change. [32966]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We will continue to use our Board position to encourage the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to increase their lending in areas important for climate change, such as renewable energy and forestry. We also regularly engage at a technical level with the MDBs to support the development of their climate and energy strategies.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects of climate change on agriculture and food security in developing countries. [33125]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has supported a number of recent studies which have helped to define the likely impact of climate change on agriculture and food security in developing countries. In 2010, a DFID-supported assessment by the World Bank found that climate change would significantly affect crops yields, especially irrigated and rain-fed cereals, and that south Asia would see the greatest fall in production.

DFID is supporting a major new programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security implemented by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. By 2020, the research aims to help reduce poverty and malnutrition in target areas, while enabling farmers in developing countries to contribute to climate change mitigation by enhancing carbon storage or reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

DFID and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have co-sponsored research by the UK Government Office for Science Foresight programme on the Future of Global Food and Farming. This research has included modelling of the impact of major climate shocks on global food supply and food prices. The final report will be published on the 25 January 2011.

Developing Countries: Food

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the operation of commodity index funds on food supply in the developing world. [33423]

Mr O'Brien: Commodity index funds have become popular vehicles for speculation and investment in commodity markets in recent years. It is difficult to be definitive about the role of speculation in agricultural price spikes. Food supply and prices in developing countries are affected by a number of factors including global energy prices, global stock levels, the size of harvests, changes in exchange rates and national agricultural trade and marketing policies. On balance we are sceptical about the degree to which speculation played a significant causal role in 2007-08. The Government continue to monitor relevant research in this area with interest.

Nigeria: Education

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has held with the Nigerian Government on UK support for the Nigerian education sector; and if he will make a statement. [33116]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has regular discussions with Nigeria's Federal and State Governments on support for the education sector. Our approach to education is to strengthen the management of the sector as a whole, together with activities targeted directly at schools and students. As I saw for myself on my recent visit DFID has contributed to a number of gains in education in Nigeria including improving access to nearly 800 schools to help increase the number of girls in school; helping nearly 2,000 women from rural areas of northern Nigeria to undertake teacher training; and providing training to improve the management of 2,000 schools.

Overseas Aid

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department provides funding to diaspora organisations based in the UK. [33317]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 10 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 62W, on Overseas Aid.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what budgetary agreements have been made in respect of funding for his Department's programmes in Ghana in advance of the publication of the bilateral spending review; [33473]

(2) what budgetary guidance on *(a)* existing and *(b)* future spending programmes has been issued to his Department's office in Ghana since his appointment; [33474]

(3) what budgetary agreements have been made in respect of funding for his Department's programmes in Malawi in advance of the publication of the bilateral spending review; [33475]

(4) what budgetary guidance on *(a)* existing and *(b)* future spending programmes has been issued to his Department's office in Malawi since his appointment; [33476]

(6) what budgetary guidance on *(a)* existing and *(b)* future spending programmes has been issued to his Department's office in Tanzania since his appointment; [33478]

(5) what budgetary agreements have been made in respect of funding for his Department's programmes in Tanzania in advance of the publication of the bilateral spending review; [33477]

(7) what budgetary agreements have been made in respect of funding for his Department's programmes in Zambia in advance of the publication of the bilateral spending review; [33479]

(8) what budgetary guidance on *(a)* existing and *(b)* future spending programmes has been issued to his Department's office in Zambia since his appointment. [33480]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the right hon. and learned Member for Camberwell and Peckham (Ms Harman) on 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 919W, which outlines the action I have taken.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to protect from violence aid agencies operating in Southern Sudan. [34134]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In Southern Sudan relations between aid workers, communities and the authorities are generally very good. This is an important element of the UN Mission's (UNMIS) security and protection agenda. The UK lobbied hard to ensure that an agreement was reached between UNMIS and NGO staff on the evacuation of NGO staff in emergency situations.

However, some abuses of aid workers by security forces are occurring. The UK is deeply concerned about any such abuses and I raised this issue with President Salva Kiir during my visit to Southern Sudan in November 2010. UK Government officials in southern Sudan have also raised this issue with senior Government of southern Sudan Ministers on a regular basis. The UK will continue to keep this issue under review including through consultation with NGOs, UNMIS and the Government.

Tanzania: Overseas Aid

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has provided in development aid to Tanzania in each of the last five years; and what proportion of such aid was funded *(a)* centrally and *(b)* for specific projects. [33492]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID), through its country programme in Tanzania, has provided the following amounts in development aid to Tanzania over the last five years.

Financial year	*Aid given centrally as budget support (£000)*	*Proportion of programme given as budget support (%)*	*Project support (£000)*	*Proportion of programme given as project support (%)*	*Total programme (£000)*
2010-11	103,500	69	46,500	31	150,000
2009-10	103,500	74	36,500	26	140,000
2008-09	105,500	80	24,500	20	130,000
2007-08	105,500	88	14,500	12	120,000
2006-07	90,000	82	20,000	18	110,000

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has provided in development aid to Tanzania for *(a)* democracy building, *(b)* training police and *(c)* strengthening the judiciary in each of the last five years. [33493]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID), through its country programme in Tanzania, has provided the following amount in development aid to Tanzania in these areas over the last five years.

£000

Financial year	*(a) Democracy building*[1]	*(b) Training police*	*(c) Strengthening the judiciary*
2010-11	2,000	200	0
2009-10	4,000	0	0
2008-09	5,400	0	0
2007-08	200	0	0
2006-07	0	0	0

[1] Including support to Tanzania's 2010 general election.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to review the level of UK aid to Tanzania. [33494]

Mr Duncan: In June 2010 the Secretary of State for International Development announced a Bilateral Aid Review of all the Department for International Development's country programmes. The aid programme to Tanzania is included in that review, which will conclude in February 2011.

CABINET OFFICE

Average Earnings

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average annual wage was in *(a)* South Shields constituency, *(b)* Colchester constituency and *(c)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [34370]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average annual wage was in (a) South Shields constituency, (b) Colchester constituency and (c) England in the latest period for which figures are available. (34370)

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. Annual levels of earnings are estimated from the ASHE, and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, who have been in the same job for more than a year.

I attach a table showing the median gross annual earnings in 2010 for full-time employees in South Shields constituency, Colchester constituency and England.

Median gross annual earnings for full-time employee jobs[1]*: 2010*

	Median (£)
South Shields constituency	**19,100
Colchester constituency	*24,400
England	26,300

[1] Full-time employees on adult rates of pay who have been in the same job for more than a year. As at April 2010.

Guide to quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the average to be within the range 180 to 220.

Key:

CV <= 5%

* CV > 5% and <=10%

** CV > 10% and <=20%

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics.

Big Society Bank

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to publish details of his Department's plans for the proposed Big Society Bank; and if he will make a statement. [32170]

Mr Hurd *[holding answer 12 January 2011]*: Government have stated their commitment to have some functions of the Big Society Bank established by April 2011, and expects it to start making investments from summer 2011 when dormant accounts are expected to be released. We will be announcing more details on the establishment of the bank in the new year.

Business: West Midlands

Chris White: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new businesses were created in *(a)* Warwick and Leamington constituency, *(b)* Warwickshire and *(c)* the West Midlands in each year since 2005. [33970]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many new businesses were created in (a) Warwick and Leamington constituency, (b) Warwickshire and (c) the West Midlands in each year since 2005. [33970]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births, deaths and survivals are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, which show enterprise births for Warwick and Leamington Constituency, Warwickshire County and the West Midlands from 2005 to 2009.

Enterprise births for Warwick and Leamington constituency, Warwickshire county and the west midlands, 2005-09

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Warwick and Leamington	800	705	785	715	555
Warwickshire	3,005	2,610	2,900	2,690	2,195
West midlands	23,115	21,025	22,805	20,585	18,245

Census

Lyn Brown: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the 2011 Census captures accurate population data for areas with high levels of *(a)* ethnic and cultural diversity and *(b)* population change. [33175]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what steps are being taken to ensure that the 2011 Census captures accurate population data for areas with high levels of (a) ethnic and cultural diversity and (b) population change. (33175)

The objective of the 2011 Census is to provide high quality, value for money population statistics as required by key users, on a consistent and comparable basis, for small areas and small population groups.

In preparing for the 2011 Census, ONS recognised changes in society and technology that have taken place in the last 10 years (including increasing numbers of migrants, students, an ageing population, changing work patterns and complex living patterns). ONS has also addressed the key lessons learned from 2001, and the small number of localised concerns about 2001 Census population estimates.

New questions

Extensive research and testing has been undertaken in the development of new questions for the 2011 Census which reflect user demand for information about changes in society. There are six new questions including details of any second address which will demonstrate where people actually spend their time and use public services. This will improve the population counts in those local authority areas that have a high proportion of people who live in the area during the week for work, but who return to another residential address at weekends. Additional questions about national identity, intention of migrants to stay and citizenship will support a more detailed understanding of migration and population change.

Online completion

In 2011 there is an option to complete a questionnaire online for the first time, quickly and securely. This may particularly appeal to some harder to count groups such as young adults, students and the visually impaired.

Resources targeted towards harder to count areas

ONS is recruiting 35,000 field staff for the field operation. A high proportion of field staff has been allocated to those areas that evidence shows are harder to enumerate, particularly inner city areas, and areas of high migration and population change. During the field operation, all questionnaire returns will be tracked and, where levels of response are low, additional field staff will be deployed to provide help on the doorstep and to collect the outstanding questionnaires. The amount of resource directed towards collecting outstanding questionnaires is three times greater than that in 2001 overall and four times greater in London and some other urban areas.

Recruitment of field staff

Recruitment of the field force has been outsourced to Capita, an organisation with expertise and experience of large scale recruitment. Good progress is being made, with high numbers and quality of applicants. We are working with local authorities and community groups to encourage applications for census jobs from ethnic minority populations or from candidates with specific language skills and with local knowledge of the areas in which they will work. We are looking to make full use of their language skills and the support they can provide for local communities groups. We specify that additional languages are desirable for all posts, and information about any staff with language skills will be provided to their field managers. This should enable them to manage their team on a local basis and move staff to any particular area where their language skills will be of most use. This approach worked well in the Census Rehearsal in 2009.

Community liaison

ONS is placing more emphasis on community engagement for the 2011 Census than in any previous census. Local area managers are promoting the census in their areas and engaging directly with local groups. As part of ONS's local engagement activity, a number of community panels have been set up to help develop community engagement plans for each target population group. These plans will be used by all area managers and community advisors to engage more effectively with the black and minority ethnic populations and other diverse communities, such as short-term migrants. ONS appointed 41 community advisors (with language skills) in August 2010, 24 of whom are working in London, to encourage the involvement of black and minority ethnic population groups in the 2011 Census. Community advisors will support the area managers in liaising with community groups representative of the target population groups.

Assistance in place to help people complete their questionnaires

ONS has set up a wide range of measures to help people during the 2011 Census. There is a telephone help centre and an online help website. By accessing these facilities, the public will be able to find out more information about the census, get answers to questions that they may have, or arrange for field staff to visit their homes to help them with their questionnaire or collect completed ones. Such assistance will be available in 56 different languages.

We are also working with a wide range of bodies including local authorities, community groups and charities to see how they can help us engage with those people who may need more help to complete their questionnaires, and to try and arrange events to help people complete their questionnaires. Such events are designed to compliment the different assistance already on offer to those people within communities who have difficulty in completing their census questionnaires. Such difficulties may arise because of disability, literacy or language issues. It is envisaged that such events will be run by volunteers trained to assist with the completion of questionnaires and to answer questions on the 2011 Census in general. Guidance on running such events, as well as training, has been prepared by ONS.

Publicity and community media

ONS is increasing publicity and communication with a wide range of stakeholders and the general public. ONS plans to use different methods depending on the audience needing to be targeted. There will be a national advertising campaign including TV, press, radio, and online advertising as well as billboards, and transport advertising (such as tube, bus etc). Publicity will also be tailored to reach many target population groups such as black and minority ethnic groups and young people. As London has a large concentration of these groups it will benefit, in particular, from this approach.

The publicity campaign will focus on the importance of the census in identifying the needs of different communities so that local and national government, and other service providers, can deliver what the community needs. The campaign puts this principle at the very centre of all communication and marketing.

Community Organisers

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what account will be taken of individuals' previous experience of charitable and community work in the recruitment of Community Organisers to work as part of the Big Society initiative. [33182]

Mr Hurd: The overarching criteria for recruitment will be developed by the National Partner once appointed in partnership with the Cabinet Office.

Employment

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the working population of *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the Wirral borough council area, *(c)* the North West, *(d)* the South East and *(e)* the UK are (i) employed in the (A) public sector and (B) private sector and (ii) unemployed. [33864]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the working population of (a) Wallasey constituency, (b) the Wirral Borough Council area, (c) the North West, (d) the South East and (e) the UK are (i) employed in (A) the public sector, (B) the private sector and (ii) unemployed. (033864)

Public sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Table 1 shows the levels and proportions of the working population employed in the private and public sector in (a) Wallasey, (b) the Wirral, (c) the North West, (d) the South East and (e) the UK. Data has been provided for the most recent APS period, July 2009 to June 2010.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 2 shows the number and proportions of persons resident in (a) Wallasey, (b) the Wirral, (c) the North West, (d) the South East and (e) the UK claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for November 2010, the most recent period for which figures are available. JSA proportions are calculated using resident population aged 16-64.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Levels and proportions of the working population of UK, North West, Wirral unitary authority, Wallasey parliamentary constituency and the South East employed in (i) public and (ii) private sector

	July 2009 to June 2010			
	Level (thousand)		Proportion (percentage)	
	Public	Private	Public	Private
UK	*7,189	*21,391	25	75
North-west	*806	*2,255	26	74
Wirral	**40	**88	31	69
Wallasey	***11	***26	29	71
South-east	*918	*3,180	22	78

Table 1: Levels and proportions of the working population of UK, North West, Wirral unitary authority, Wallasey parliamentary constituency and the South East employed in (i) public and (ii) private sector

July 2009 to June 2010

Level (thousand) Proportion (percentage)

Public Private Public Private

Note:

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 ≤ CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≤ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

CV ≥ Coefficient of Variation

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Table 2: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in UK, North West, Wirral unitary authority, Wallasey parliamentary constituency and the South East

	November 2010	
	Level	Proportion (percentage)
UK	1,407,975	3.5
North-west	172,855	3.9
Wirral	8,125	4.3
Wallasey	2,740	4.9
South-east	126,770	2.3

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Environment Protection: West Midlands

Chris White: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were employed in the environmental sector in *(a)* Warwickshire and *(b)* the West Midlands on the latest date for which figures are available. [33965]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were employed in the environmental sector in a) Warwickshire and b) the West Midlands on the latest date for which figures are available (33965).

ONS does not currently publish estimates for the number of people employed in the environmental sector.

Chris White: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses were created in the environmental sector in *(a)* Warwickshire and *(b)* the West Midlands in each year since 2005. [33966]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many businesses were created in the environmental sector in (a) Warwickshire and (b) the West Midlands in each year since 2005. [33966]

ONS does not produce statistics on the number of businesses in the environmental sector. Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births, deaths and survivals are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Government Departments: Shared Services

Simon Kirby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has plans to encourage Government Departments to co-locate and share services to reduce their costs; and if he will make a statement. [32261]

Mr Maude: Increased sharing of services across Departments presents an opportunity for significant savings and improvements in service quality. The Government's Efficiency and Reform Group is working with Departments to accelerate their use of shared services for back office services, such as finance, HR and procurement so that significant economies of scale can be delivered.

Furthermore, the Government announced in the 2010 spending review that as a first step to introducing a more co-ordinated approach to property asset management in the public sector it would set up Property Vehicles for the Central London and Bristol office estate from 2011-12. The Government will announce further details in due course.

Manufacturing Industries: West Midlands

Chris White: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses in the manufacturing sector were created in *(a)* Warwickshire and *(b)* the West Midlands in each year since 2005. [33968]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many businesses in the manufacturing sector were created in (a) Warwickshire and (b) the West Midlands in each year since 2005. [33968]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births, deaths and survivals are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, which show enterprise births in the Manufacturing sector for Warwickshire County and the West Midlands from 2005 to 2009.

Enterprise births in Warwickshire county and the West Midlands for the manufacturing sector 2005-09

	Warwickshire	West Midlands
2005	1,260	155
2006	1,135	150
2007	1,300	155
2008	1,090	130
2009	1,035	110

Public Sector: Procurement

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will make an assessment of the merits of authorising suppliers on the Office of Government Commerce framework on a regional basis for the purpose of assisting small and medium-sized enterprises to tender for Government and local authority business in their regions. [27396]

Mr Maude: From March 2011 small businesses will be able to search for public sector procurement opportunities on the new 'Contracts Finder' facility. Not only will suppliers be able to set search parameters to enable them to search for regional and local opportunities but they will also get free e-mail alerts based on these preferences.

There are a number of buying organisations in the United Kingdom which purchase on behalf of contracting authorities and Buying Solutions, part of the Efficiency and Reform Group in Cabinet Office, is one of these. Regional supply is often a consideration in Buying Solutions frameworks. Examples include regional lots for NHS building and engineering maintenance and regional pricing for provision of administration and clerical staff. All suppliers on Buying Solutions frameworks can subcontract to regional SMEs if required.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps to *(a)* simplify and *(b)* standardise the pre-qualification procedure for small businesses wishing to tender for public contracts he is considering; and when he expects to announce the outcome of his consideration. [33510]

Mr Maude: We issued a simplified, standardised pre-qualification questionnaire last autumn, which since 1 December has been mandated to central Government Departments including their agents and agencies and all non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). Further we are investigating ways in which suppliers can be enabled to tell us their pre-qualification data once. Announcements will be made on this work in due course.

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will bring forward proposals to encourage small and medium-sized businesses to apply for Government contracts. [33519]

Mr Maude: I made a number of announcements on opening up public procurement for SMEs at the Small Business Summit on 1 November 2010. We are progressing those proposals as quickly as possible and we will be making announcements on further measures over the next few months.

Social Housing: Income

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the median household income was of a family in *(a)* the social rented sector, *(b)* the private rented sector and *(c)* owner-occupied accommodation in (i) the Dumfries and Galloway local authority area and (ii) Dumfries and Galloway constituency (A) before and (B) after housing costs in the latest period for which figures are available. [31539]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

We use Households Below Average Income data to provide estimates of median incomes. However, the sample size of this survey is not sufficient to provide estimates for low-level geographies such as those requested.

The following table shows the median equivalised disposable household income by tenure for Scotland, before and after housing costs.

Median equivalised disposable household income, for families, by tenure for Scotland, three year average 2006-07 to 2008-09, before and after housing costs

	Median equivalised disposable household income for families	
Tenure type	*BHC*	*AHC*
Owners	467	424
Social Renters	291	235
Private Renters	346	253

Notes

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). These use disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for HBAI figures is single financial years. For countries and regions within the UK, three survey years have been combined as single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. Incomes are presented in 2008-09 prices and have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling.
5. Families are defined as a single adult or couple living as married and any dependent children, including same sex couples (civil partnerships and cohabitees) from January 2006. A household is made up of one of more families and is defined as a single person or group of people living at the same address as their only or main residence, who either share one meal a day together or share the living accommodation (i.e. a living room). In line with the wording of the question, analysis has been carried out at the family level.

Source:

Households Below Average Income (HBAI) 2006/07 to 2008/09

Social Services: West Midlands

Chris White: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many social enterprises were created in the adult social care sector in *(a)* Warwickshire and *(b)* the West Midlands in each year since 2005. [33969]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many social enterprises were created in the adult social care sector in (a) Warwickshire and (b) the West Midlands in each year since 2005. [33969]

ONS does not produce statistics on the number of social enterprises. Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births, deaths and survivals are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Unemployment

Amber Rudd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the number and proportion of workless households in *(a)* Hastings, *(b)* Hastings and Rye constituency, *(c)* East Sussex and *(d)* England. [33699]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number and proportion of workless households in (a) Hastings, (b) Hastings and Rye constituency, (c) East Sussex, and (d) England (33699).

The figures in the table attached are from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. The latest data currently available is for 2009. The table shows estimates for England and East Sussex. Due to the specific nature of your request it is not possible to provide reliable estimates for Hastings and Rye constituency and Hastings unitary authority area because of small sample sizes.

As with any sample survey estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. These estimates are such that there is 95 per cent certainty that from all samples possible they will lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Number and proportion of workless households[1] in East Sussex and England

		Estimate	*Lower bound[2]*	*Upper bound[2]*
Thousand				
January to December 2009	East Sussex	21	16	26
	England	3,085	3,035	3,136
Percentage				
January to December 2009	East Sussex	13.9	11.0	16.8
	England	18.1	17.8	18.4

[1] Households containing at least one person aged 16 to 64, where all individuals aged 16 or over are not in employment.

[2] 95% confidence interval.

Source:

APS household dataset.

Unemployment: Richmond Park

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the number of workless households in Richmond Park constituency. [32967]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number of workless households in Richmond Park constituency (32967).

The requested information is not available. Due to the specific detail of the request, it is not possible to provide estimates for the Richmond Park constituency because of insufficient sample sizes.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to answer Question 27396, tabled on 24 November 2010, on small and medium-sized enterprises and the OGC framework. [33149]

Mr Maude: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given today.

HEALTH

Arthritis: Health Services

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for the number of rheumatology specialist nurses in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [33095]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Information Centre Workforce Census records numbers of nurses working in some specialties. However, it does not record numbers of nurses working at rheumatology specialty level.

It is for local national health service organisations to recruit and train the staff best placed to serve their local population.

The expectation that the number of rheumatology specialist nurses is increasing is based on the rounded care model for rheumatoid arthritis which is built around a multi-disciplinary team approach. Multi-disciplinary teams within rheumatology services see some of the functions traditionally carried out by consultant rheumatologists appropriately transferred to other members of the team, such as specialist nurses.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline 79 'Rheumatoid arthritis: The management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults' makes the multi-disciplinary team, including a specialist nurse, a key priority for implementation.

Blood: Contamination

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the paper deposited in the Library consequent on the contribution by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Guildford (Anne Milton) of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 567, on what dates since 14 October 2010 Ministers or officials in his Department have had discussions on blood product contamination with their counterparts in the Republic of Ireland. [33335]

Anne Milton: There were exchanges of e-mail correspondence between departmental officials and officials in the Republic of Ireland regarding the HIV and hepatitis C insurance scheme in the Republic of Ireland, on 26 and 27 October 2010, and 4 January 2011.

Now that the review is complete, departmental officials intend to make further contact with Irish officials to follow up points raised by my hon. Friend the Member for Bracknell (Dr Lee) in the Back-Bench debate on 14 October 2010 and the subsequent meeting of 2 December with the hon. Member for Bracknell, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Cambridgeshire (Stephen Barclay) and my hon. Friend the Member for Bristol North West (Charlotte Leslie).

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 630W, on blood: contamination, how many patients in respect of whom freedom of information requests are outstanding because of patient confidentiality issues have been contacted by his Department to determine whether they wish to waive patient confidentiality in the interests of disclosure. [33383]

Anne Milton: There are currently no outstanding freedom of information requests on blood contamination. The Department has previously withheld five documents from the period 1975 to 1985 under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Two of these documents are curricula vitae. One is a list of names and curricula vitae. Two contain patient-identifiable information. As one of the patients concerned is dead, the Data Protection Act does not apply to one of the documents.

The Department is currently considering how to release the information contained within these two documents.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make it his policy to *(a)* end the ban on homosexual and bisexual males donating blood, *(b)* increase the opportunities for blood screening for those wishing to donate blood and *(c)* fund a public education programme for homosexual and bisexual males for the purposes of raising awareness of opportunities for blood donation and screening; [33487]

(2) what the evidential basis is for prohibiting *(a)* homosexual and bisexual males, *(b)* male homosexual couples in long-life monogamous relationships, *(c)* celibate homosexual and bisexual males, *(d)* heterosexual males who have had homosexual relations at school, *(e)* males who last had homosexual sex in the 1960s and *(f)* males in the aforementioned categories who have had a blood test to show they are HIV negative from giving blood; [33488]

(3) when the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs will publish its review to determine whether the ban on homosexual and bisexual men donating blood should remain in place; and what the reasons are for the time taken to complete and publish the review; [33489]

(4) whether he has had discussions with his counterpart in *(a)* New Zealand, *(b)* Spain, *(c)* Italy, *(d)* Japan and *(e)* Australia on their polices of allowing some homosexual and bisexual males to donate blood in certain circumstances; [33490]

(5) whether he has assessed the potential effects of his policy of banning homosexual and bisexual males from donating blood on the supply of donated blood available to the National Blood Service. [33491]

Anne Milton: The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) is currently reviewing the evidence base for donor deferral in relation to sexual behaviours, including the exclusion of men who have ever had sex with men.

SaBTO had initially expected to report by the end of 2010, but wished to wait for the results of an attitudinal study to current deferral policy, which only became available in late 2010.

The Committee is considering a wide range of data and information, including sufficiency of blood supply. The review has also considered both international practice and the outcome of other reviews around the world. SaBTO has also been in discussion with International experts. In different countries, the epidemiological, social and other factors are unique and as a result, the outcome of each review may differ.

SaBTO's report, summarising the work of the donor deferral group, and SaBTO's recommendations, once finalised, will be made public in due course. The report will include analysis of the evidence to support or refute a change in deferral criteria in relation to sexual history. The Department will consider SaBTO's recommendations once they have been made.

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 33-35, on contaminated blood, what discussions he had with the Health Minister in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales prior to the statement. [33890]

Anne Milton: There was liaison between the departmental officials and their counterparts in each devolved Administration.

Departmental officials shared copies of the report of the clinical expert group and the cost estimates of the options under consideration with officials in each of the devolved Administrations during the course of the review of the support available to individuals infected with hepatitis C and/or HIV by national health supplied blood transfusions or blood products and their dependants.

There were no discussions with Health Ministers in the devolved Administrations prior to the Secretary of State's announcement on 10 January 2011.

The devolved Administrations have not yet decided how they intend to proceed on this issue.

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 33-35, on contaminated blood, how many people with haemophilia who have been infected with hepatitis C have *(a)* received stage 1 relief payments and *(b)* received stage 2 relief payments to date. [33891]

Anne Milton: As at 31 December 2010, 2,173 people with haemophilia, who have been infected with hepatitis C, have received an ex-gratia stage 1 payment from the Skipton Fund, of which 354 people with haemophilia received a stage 2 payment.

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 33-35, on contaminated blood, what estimate he has made of the number of people with haemophilia who have been infected with hepatitis C and who have received stage 1 relief payments who will qualify for stage 2 relief *(a)* in the next year, *(b)* in the next four years and *(c)* in the next 10 years. [33892]

Anne Milton: The measures announced in the Secretary of State's statement on 10 January 2011 apply to all patients who have been infected with hepatitis C by contaminated national health service supplied blood and blood products, not just haemophilia patients. We know of 4,675 people with haemophilia in the United Kingdom who were infected with hepatitis C by NHS-supplied blood products during the 1970s and 1980s. Published epidemiological estimates suggest that up to 28,043 other individuals might have been similarly infected with hepatitis C by whole blood transfusions in the UK.

Estimates of those moving from Skipton Fund stage 1 payments to Skipton Fund stage 2 payments over the next 10 years were calculated in two parts. First, the number of individuals whose diagnosis progresses to allow them to receive stage 2 payments. Second, there may be people who already qualify for a stage 2 payment who have not yet claimed it, and who now come forward to make a claim because of the recent increase. These two parts are presented as follows.

	Recipients from new diagnoses	*Patients who already qualify but have not previously come forward to make a claim*
2011-12	64	20
2012-13	64	10
2013-14	64	5
2014-15	64	5
2015-16	15	0
2016-17	15	0
2017-18	15	0
2018-19	15	0
2019-20	5	0
2020-21	5	0

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 33-35, on contaminated blood, (1) if he will set out the criteria for additional discretionary payments to be made to people with haemophilia who have been infected with hepatitis C and are in serious financial need: [33893]

(2) what additional support will be available to those people with haemophilia who have been infected with hepatitis C who qualify for stage 1 relief payments and have other health problems. [33894]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State's statement of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 33-35, announced that any individual who has been infected with hepatitis C as a result of their treatment with contaminated national health service supplied blood or blood products, and who is experiencing serious financial hardship, will be eligible to apply for discretionary payments from a new trust which is being set up. This applies to both Skipton Fund stage 1 recipients and Skipton Fund stage 2 recipients. The schedule for these new discretionary payments will be developed by the new trust, once it has been established.

The review report can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_123363

Care Quality Commission

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the future of the *(a)* Care Quality Commission and *(b)* General Dental Council; and if he will make a statement. [32986]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent system regulator of health and adult social care services in England. The White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" stated that the role of the CQC would be strengthened as an effective quality inspectorate across both health and social care.

The General Dental Council is the regulator of individual dental care professionals in the United Kingdom, and is independent of the Department. The Department has no plans to change this.

Eye Care

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from the eye care industry on treating cataract patients with high technology lenses. [33164]

Mr Simon Burns: No such representations have been received.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has made a recent estimate of the average cost of hospital treatment for elderly patients with poor vision; and if he will make a statement. [33165]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. While the Department does collect the average costs to national health service providers of eye treatments and procedures, they are not sufficiently detailed to show the costs of treating elderly patients with poor vision.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his proposals to give cataract patients and other health service users greater choice and control over their eye lens treatment; and whether he plans to allocate funding for the implementation of those proposals. [33167]

Mr Simon Burns: As explained in the answers on 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 890W, and 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1015W, we are currently consulting on proposals for giving patients and service users greater choice and control over their healthcare. The consultation closed on 14 January. We will publish our response along with further policy proposals in spring 2011. We are not planning to allocate funding for the implementation of the choice commitments.

Chronically Sick People

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of people aged 60 years and over who have been diagnosed with more than one long-term condition. [33073]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect data separately on the number of people who have been diagnosed with one or more long-term condition. Information from the General Lifestyle Survey (2008) suggests that 6.1 million people in England aged 60 years and over report themselves as having at least one long-term condition.

Source:

General Lifestyle Survey, 2008

Dentistry

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from the British Dental Association on arrangements for dental practices to register with the Care Quality Commission; and if he will make a statement. [33145]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has recently received correspondence from the chief executive of the British Dental Association (BDA) setting out their concerns over the registration process with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The BDA postcard campaign raised the following issues:

1. duplication of CQC's functions with those of other bodies;
2. registration fees; and
3. registration deadline.

My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Earl Howe) met with BDA officials last year to discuss the arrangements for registration and a further meeting is scheduled in early February.

Dentists: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the average cost to dentists' practices of introduction of the Health Technical Memorandum 01-05 control regulations. [33263]

Mr Simon Burns: The cost of introducing the essential quality requirements detailed in Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05 should be minimal as they are very similar to the standards set in guidance on decontamination issued by the British Dental Association (BDA) with the support of the Department in 2003. For practices already compliant with the BDA guidance, the only capital costs incurred would be for the installation of an extra sink for rinsing of instruments.

The recent Dental National Decontamination Survey, which took place very soon after HTM 01-05 was published, demonstrated that 70% of practices in England were already compliant with these essential quality requirements, with approximately 20% very close to compliance. This demonstrates that for the majority of practices, compliance with the HTM 01-05 guidance has not been problematic.

We have not yet set a date set by which dental practices should comply with the best practice requirements set in the HTM. We wish to find out more about the extent and cost of the improvements that would be required.

Flu: Vaccination

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of doses of flu vaccines available for use in NHS facilities in *(a)* the London borough of Newham and *(b)* London. [33387]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not held centrally. General practitioners (GPs) in England order seasonal flu vaccine direct from the manufacturers, according to their patients needs.

About 14.5 million doses have been ordered from vaccine suppliers (both private and national health service) for the United Kingdom. Seasonal flu vaccine quantities each year are usually between 14 and 15 million doses.

The Department is aware of some reports of seasonal flu vaccine supply issues in some areas. The NHS is working to ensure that any local vaccine shortages are managed effectively.

The Department is working with the NHS at the local level to ensure available supplies of surplus vaccine are moved to where there is a need for them. The chief medical officer wrote to GPs in England on 6 January to confirm that they can use the H1N1 monovalent flu vaccine Pandemrix, which will help protect people most at risk against the H1N1 virus which is causing the most illness. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library.

There are potentially over 12 million doses of Pandemrix available to the NHS if needed.

Food Intolerances

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the most recent scientific advice he has received is on the effects on the health of *(a)* children, *(b)* the elderly and *(c)* pregnant women of exposure to dioxins through the food chain. [33355]

Anne Milton: In 2007 the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment confirmed the tolerable daily intake (TDI) for dioxins, which would protect humans including children, the elderly and pregnant women from all the toxic effects of these chemicals. In January 2011, the Food Standards Agency used this TDI as the basis for assessing the risks from food products arising from the use of liquid pasteurised egg made from eggs laid by hens exposed to contaminated animal feed from Germany.

Food Intolerances: Children

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what studies his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned in the last 10 years on food ingredients and their effect on children's behaviour; and whether he plans to (i) undertake and (ii) commission further such research; [33293]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* evaluated on the relationship between food intolerances and the behaviour of children in the last 10 years. [33291]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has commissioned and funded two studies in 1997 and 2004 which focused on whether there is any association between consumption of certain mixtures of artificial food additives and hyperactive behaviour in children. The findings of both studies have been made available and were evaluated in 2007 along with other relevant information by the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (the independent scientific committee that advises Government Departments and agencies on the toxicity of chemicals) as well as being discussed and reviewed by the FSA Board and Health Ministers.

In addition, the FSA commissioned and funded a systematic review of the evidence on the effects of nutrition, diet and dietary change on children's learning, behaviour and school performance. A total of 29 trials were taken forward in the review, including studies examining the effect of breakfast, sugar intake, fish oil supplements, vitamin and mineral supplements and good nutrition. This review was unable to reach firm conclusions on the effect of diet on children's performance and behaviour. The findings of the review were made available on the FSA website and published in a peer reviewed journal in 2008.

There are no plans to commission any further research.

Heart Diseases

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many planned admissions there were for heart surgery following acute myocardial infarction in *(a)* each primary care trust and *(b)* England in each of the last five years; [33651]

(2) how many finished consultant episodes there were following acute myocardial infarction in *(a)* each primary care trust and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [33654]

Mr Simon Burns: A table showing the number of finished consultant episodes with a primary diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction by primary care trust of residence and England from 2005-06 to 2009-10 has been placed in the Library.

Data are not collected for planned admissions for heart surgery following acute myocardial infarction.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were offered cardiac rehabilitation following acute myocardial infarction in *(a)* each primary care trust and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [33652]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect information about the number of patients who are offered cardiac rehabilitation following an acute myocardial infarction.

However, there are data on cardiac rehabilitation available from the latest National Audit of Cardiac Rehabilitation (NACR) report which can be found on the NACR's website at:

www.cardiacrehabilitation.org.uk/nacr/docs/2010.pdf

This includes information about the number of patients who have had cardiac rehabilitation following a myocardial infarction.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the need for outcome measures in respect of readmission rates following acute myocardial infarction within the proposed NHS Outcomes framework. [33653]

Mr Simon Burns: On 20 December, we published 'The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12, which set out the outcomes and corresponding indicators that will be used to hold the NHS Commissioning Board to account for delivering better outcomes for patients. The document is available at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_123138.pdf

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

In determining the selection of the final indicators for the framework, the Department considered all suggestions and comments received through the public consultation, and analysed all potential indicators against a set of criteria. As part of this process, we have considered outcomes measures relating to readmission rates for acute myocardial infarction (AMI). Detailed explanations of the rationales for the selection of the outcomes and indicators are set out in chapter 2 of 'The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12' (pages 10-32).

The outcomes and indicators have been chosen with a view to creating a balanced set of national outcome goals, which reflect the breadth of treatment activity for which the national health service is responsible. It will therefore not be possible to include outcome indicators for all specific diseases and long-term conditions. Instead, where appropriate, indicators have been selected which seek to capture those outcomes that an individual with any condition would consider important.

HIV Infection

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the variation between local authority areas in respect of infection rates for HIV. [33177]

Anne Milton: In our White Paper 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England', published on 30 November 2010, we set out ambitions for the future of public health. Core features are the establishment of a new body, Public Health England, as part of the Department, and the return to local government of public health leadership and responsibility. A copy of the White Paper has already been placed in the Library.

On 20 December 2010, we published the consultation document 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Transparency in Outcomes'. The document sets out how we will be shifting power to local communities, enabling them to improve health across people's lives, reduce inequalities and focus on the needs of the local population. We will make it easier for local areas to compare themselves with others across the country, and where possible how performance is changing within areas, and lever improvements. One of the proposed indicators is "Proportion of persons presenting with HIV at a late stage of infection". A copy of the consultation document has already been placed in the Library.

Hospital Beds

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to prevent bed blocking in NHS facilities; [33265]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of patients who are in hospital because of difficulty in determining a discharge destination. [33266]

Paul Burstow: Information on delayed transfers of care has never been collected in the level of detail necessary to estimate how many are due to difficulty determining the discharge destination, because the essential business needs of the Department cannot justify the additional administrative burden on the bodies that would have to provide the data.

It is the responsibility of the national health service and its local partners, including social service departments, to ensure that no patient remains in a hospital bed for longer than clinically necessary, and that any ongoing care and support can begin promptly and the individual is restored to independent living in the community as quickly as possible.

This requires better working across the NHS and social care and so we have provided the funding and clear direction in the NHS Operating Framework for the NHS and local government to make this happen. In October, we announced £70 million for re-ablement in 2010-11. From April, this will rise to £150 million and after that, £300 million each year has been earmarked for re-ablement up to March 2015. The NHS Operating Framework 2011-12 requires the NHS to work with its social care partners in developing plans for investing in re-ablement services.

In addition, we announced that following a successful efficiency drive, the Department is able to make an extra £162 million available to the NHS for transfer to social care to spend in this financial year on helping people to leave hospital more quickly, get settled back at home with the support they need, and to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital.

Influenza: Vaccination

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons GPs were not required to contact carers to offer an influenza vaccination in the winter of 2010-11; and if he will encourage GPs to provide vaccinations at home. [33674]

Anne Milton: There has been no change to the approach and guidance in respect of seasonal influenza vaccination and carers this winter. The chief medical officer wrote to the national health service on 23 June setting out the arrangements for the 2010-11 influenza vaccination programme. This advice stated that seasonal influenza vaccine should be offered to those in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an older or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill.

The place where the vaccination is administered is a matter to be determined locally. If patients or carers are unable to attend a surgery or clinic for vaccination, we would expect alternative arrangements, including home visits, to be undertaken.

Insulin: Finance

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage NHS healthcare trusts to provide funding and support for insulin pump therapy for children with diabetes. [33339]

Paul Burstow: The 2011-12 NHS operating framework highlights the provision of insulin pumps. It states that,

> "NHS commissioners and providers must do more to ensure insulin pumps are available for those people with diabetes that meet the criteria recommended by the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence".

The NHS National Technology Adoption Centre has published guidance to support national health service organisations in the adoption of insulin pumps. In addition, Dr Rowan Hillson, the National Clinical Director for Diabetes is currently chairing a working group that focuses is on the uptake of insulin pumps.

Interim Cancer Drugs Fund

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure that patients with rare cancers have equitable access to funding for their treatment through the Interim Cancer Drugs Fund. [33502]

Paul Burstow: Decisions on which cancer drugs are funded from the additional £50 million made available in this financial year are a matter for local clinically-led panels based on the advice of cancer specialists. We expect these decisions to be informed by the guidance issued by the Department to strategic health authorities in July 2010, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

We are currently consulting on our proposals for the Cancer Drugs Fund which will operate from April 2011. The consultation asks for views on what advice we can give the clinically-led panels on the specific challenge posed by rarity and whether guidance should be issued on prioritising the fund application process, for example to rarer cancers.

The consultation document "The Cancer Drugs Fund: A Consultation" is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_120834

and a copy has already been placed in the Library. The consultation is open until 19 January 2011.

Ipswich Hospital: Manpower

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* auxiliary nurses were employed at Ipswich hospital in each of the last five years. [33017]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows hospital figures of nurses at Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust as at 30 September each year.

Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust

Number

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,327	1,270	1,319	1,275	1,740
Nursing support staff (auxiliaries)	568	540	570	490	446

Notes:

1. The number of qualified bank nurses reported by the trust has increased by 450 between 2008 and 2009.

2. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracies lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Lyme Disease

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department holds on the number of people diagnosed with Lyme disease in each region in each of the last three years; what his most recent estimate is of the incidence of Lyme disease in the South East; and what recent steps have been taken to prevent the spread of Lyme disease in that area. [33208]

Anne Milton: Data on confirmed cases of Lyme disease are not routinely available by region. Data on laboratory confirmed cases of Lyme disease in England and Wales for the last three years are provided by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) as follows:

	Total reports received	*Mean annual incidence per 100,000 population*
2007	797	1.49
2008	813	1.52
2009	973	1.79

Specific analysis of provisional data for 2009 by the HPA indicates that for the south-east health region, the incidence of confirmed cases of Lyme disease was 4.85/100,000.

Information for the public on prevention and control of Lyme disease is published on the Health Protection Agency's website and is also available for travellers on the National Travel Health Network and Centre.

Medical Schools

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the required national curriculum for medical schools relates to geriatric care. [33072]

Anne Milton: There is no required national curriculum for medical schools. Each medical school is responsible for developing its own curriculum. The General Medical Council (GMC) has statutory responsibility to determine the extent and knowledge and skill required for the granting of primary medical qualifications in the United Kingdom. It is the responsibility of the medical schools to ensure that their detailed individual curricula meet the standards set by the GMC, which are set out in their document Tomorrow's Doctors. This is available at:

www.gmc-uk.org/education/undergraduate/tomorrows_doctors_2009.asp

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence: Drugs

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what modification criteria are applied by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence when appraising drugs with potential patient numbers of fewer than 500. [33501]

Mr Simon Burns: Following the referral of a topic to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), technology appraisal guidance is developed in accordance with NICE'S published process and methods guides.

In 2009, NICE issued supplementary advice to its Appraisal Committees to clarify the circumstances in which it might be appropriate to recommend potentially life-extending treatments licensed for terminal illnesses affecting small numbers of patients, as long as other criteria are also met.

Further information on NICE'S methods of technology appraisal, including the supplementary advice issued in 2009, is available at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/devnicetech/technologyappraisalprocessguides/guidetothemethodsoftechnologyappraisal.jsp

NHS Work Force Consultation

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the forthcoming NHS workforce consultation will include the adaptation of that work force to the requirements of an ageing population. [33071]

Mr Simon Burns: "Liberating the NHS: Developing the healthcare workforce", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, was published on 20 December 2010. It proposes that responsibility for planning and developing the work force is devolved to healthcare providers.

Healthcare providers are best placed to determine the size and shape of their own work force to respond to the needs of their staff, patients and local communities.

NHS: Older People

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent estimate of the cost incurred by the NHS in respect of the treatment in hospital of elderly patients as a result of falls in the home. [33179]

Paul Burstow: Hip fractures remain the most serious consequence of a fall and the Department's recent estimate indicates that around 76,000 hip fractures occur in the United Kingdom each year, and cost the national health service around £1.4 billion.

Falls are not an inevitable consequence of old age; rather they are nearly always due to one or more underlying risk factors. Common risk factors include occurrence of a previous fall, gait and balance problems, muscle weakness, cognitive impairment, for example from dementia or delirium, multiple medications (notably sedatives), visual impairment, fainting and acute medical illness.

The Government have not made a recent estimate of costs to the NHS in respect of the treatment in hospital of elderly patients resulting from falls in the home. The data that the Department collect on hospital admissions are based on diagnosis, as opposed to the cause of illness or accidents.

NHS: Recruitment

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the annual cost to the NHS of recruiting staff as a consequence of the implementation of the European Working Time Directive. [33262]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally. It is for individual national health service trusts to ensure that their service rotas are designed and staffed appropriately.

NHS: Waiting Lists

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* GPs and *(c)* hospitals are required to provide to patients on their rights to access services within maximum waiting times; and if he will make a statement; [33668]

(2) what forms of redress NHS commissioners are able to offer to patients who are not treated within maximum waiting times; and if he will make a statement. [33669]

Mr Simon Burns: On 1 April 2010, the Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities (Waiting Times) Directions 2010 came into effect. These established the rights for a patient to start consultant-led treatment within 18 weeks from referral and be seen by a specialist within two weeks of general practitioner referral for suspected cancer, or where this is not possible, for the national health service to take all reasonable steps to offer the patient a quicker appointment at a range of alternative providers if the patient makes such a request.

Guidance for commissioners and providers on fulfilling their legal and contractual obligations in relation to patients' rights to access services within maximum waiting times was published on 8 March 2010. This includes good practice on raising patient awareness of their maximum waiting times rights.

Copies of the directions and guidance have been placed in the Library.

Patients: Transport

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has he made of the effectiveness of the service provided by Savoy Ventures Ltd under its contract for non-urgent patient transport at the South London Healthcare Trust; and whether this level of performance differs from that of the previous contractor. [34118]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the local national health service.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimates he has made of the number of people in England who *(a)* currently use a pre-payment certificate and *(b)* purchased a pre-payment certificate in each of the last five years. [32627]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected on the number of people using a prescription pre-payment certificate (PPC). Information on the number of PPCs valid on 17 December 2010 is shown in the following table.

PPCs active[1] on 17 December 2010 (England)[2]

Certificate duration	*Number*
3 months	166,386
12 months	673,078
Total	839,464

[1] The PPC expiry date was on or after 17 December 2010.

[2] PPCs can have a start date one month prior to or one month after the date the application is received by NHS HwHC . Therefore the number of active PPCs on 17 December may increase if backdated PPCs are issued.

Source:

National Health Service Help with Health Costs (HwHC) PPC database

The number of PPCs issued or purchased since 2005-06 is as follows.

PPCs issued or purchased (England)

	Duration of certificates			
Financial year	*3 month*	*4 month*	*12 month*	*Total*
2005-06	—	638,413	524,232	1,162,645
2006-07	—	650,782	520,449	1,171,231
2007-08	474,570	176,503	593,507	1,244,580
2008-09	730,592	—	652,870	1,383,462
2009-10	714,594	—	662,588	1,377,182
2010-11[1]	485,195	-	454,134	939,329

[1] 2010-11covers 1 April to 17 December 2010.

Source:

NHS Help with Health Costs (HwHC) PPC database

Primary Care Trusts: Prisoners

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Suffolk Coastal of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1288W, on primary care trusts: prisoners, (1) how much was paid to GPs for drug treatment in Ranby prison in each of the last three years; [33336]

(2) for what reason no figures were reported at Ranby prison in the last three years. [33337]

Paul Burstow: Information on payments to general practitioners (GPs) for providing prison health care services is not collected by the Department. Since 2006, primary care trusts (PCTs) have commissioned health services in publicly run prisons in England and available information about payments made to GPs for drug services in Ranby prison is held by Bassetlaw PCT.

In common with many other trainer prisons, Ranby prison did not disclose any data to the National Offender Management Service about the number of prisoners receiving drug treatment in this prison in any of the last three financial years thus these data are not collected by the Department in respect of Ranby prison.

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse collects data on the number of individual prisoners at Ranby prison who commenced drug treatment in 2008-09 and 2009-10 only and is shown in the following table.

Ranby prison: number of individuals commencing drug treatment and clinical performance in 2008-09 and 2009-10

	No. of new receptions (No. of initial health care screens)	*No. entering drug treatment*	*% of new receptions entering drug treatment[1]*	*No. of initial health care screens that result in clinical substance misuse assessment*	*No. receiving first night prescribing*	*No. of opioid stabilisations commenced*	*No. of opioid detoxifications commenced*	*No. of opioid maintenance prescriptions commenced*
2008-09	2,111	472	22	238	10	0	0	16
2009-10	1,960	559	29	100	23	12	2	35

[1] Data for numbers entering drug treatment may include alcohol clients and is the CARATS (Counselling, Assessment, Referral and Throughcare Services) caseload number of clients requiring non-clinical, lower level interventions.

Source:

National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse—Performance Data

Thame Community Hospital

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial support his Department has provided for the re-development of Thame Community Hospital; and what recent assessment he has made of the delivery of that project. [33024]

Mr Simon Burns: The Thame Community Hospital redevelopment is one of 28 schemes approved under the community hospital programme.

The primary care trust (PCT) schedule for the Thame scheme had previously indicated a requirement for funding of £4 million over the 2010-11 and 2011-12 financial years, and the Department had provisionally allocated £2.28 million for 2010-11. As a result of revisions made to the project timetable by the PCT, in the light of changing local priorities, the project no longer requires any financial support from the Department in the 2010-11 financial year. Capital allocations for 2011-12 have yet to be finalised.

With respect to an assessment of the delivery of the project, South Central Strategic Health Authority will assess this when they receive the outline business case later this year.

Tobacco: Retail Trade

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his timetable is for introducing the proposed ban on the display of tobacco products in retail outlets. [33752]

Anne Milton: The legislation ending displays of tobacco products is scheduled to commence for large shops on 1 October 2011 and for small shops on 1 October 2013.

The Government are looking at options around the display of tobacco in shops, recognising the need to take action both to reduce tobacco consumption and to reduce burdens on businesses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arab States: Overseas Trade

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on promoting trade with Arab countries and formulating strategic government assistance to UK companies trying to export to the Arab world. [33720]

Alistair Burt: The Government are committed to building closer relationships with all our partners in the Gulf and the wider middle east and north Africa, and promoting more UK trade and investment with the region. I am in close touch with my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on this.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are working closely with my noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, Lord Green, and colleagues in UK Trade and Investment, in delivering advice and assistance to UK exporters in line with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Gulf and Commercial Diplomacy Initiatives.

Australia: Floods

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist Australia in respect of recent flooding in Queensland. [33629]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has spoken to Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard and offered UK assistance should it be required. Despite the scale of the floods, her advice was that they did not need international support at this stage.

Officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in coordination with Whitehall Departments, are actively engaged with the Australian authorities on what assistance the UK may be able to provide.

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received any requests for assistance from the Government of Australia in dealing with the recent serious floods in that country. [33906]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I can confirm that I have received no request for assistance from the Government of Australia in dealing with the recent serious flooding in Queensland, but we continue to stay in close contact with them.

British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department plans to discuss the Support After Murder and Manslaughter Abroad draft Memorandum of Understanding with the *(a)* Home Office and *(b)* Ministry of Justice. [33797]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Consular officials are discussing the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the National Policing Improvement Agency, who are co-ordinating with the other possible parties—Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Coroners Society. We will discuss it with the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office, if appropriate, in due course.

China: EU External Trade

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the EU embargo on exports of arms and military technology to China. [33595]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government's view is that the time is not right to lift the EU Arms Embargo on China.

Departmental Visits Abroad

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which foreign counties have not been visited by a Minister from his Department in the last three years. [29477]

Alistair Burt: The following table shows countries visited by Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers where costs incurred exceeded £500 in the last three financial years: 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. We do not hold records of trips under £500 centrally, and obtaining this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Between May and December 2010, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers visited the following countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Chile, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Vanuatu, Yemen, and the British Overseas Territories of Anguilla and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Further details on Ministerial visits can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministers-overseas-travel

	2007-08
	Country
Right hon. Margaret Beckett MP	Belgium
Secretary of State	China
	Egypt
	Germany
	Japan
	Luxembourg
	USA
Right hon. David Miliband MP	Afghanistan
Secretary of State	Bangladesh
	Belgium
	China
	Denmark
	Egypt
	Finland
	France
	Germany
	Iraq
	Israel
	Italy
	Jordan
	Kuwait
	Luxembourg
	Pakistan
	Palestine
	Portugal
	Romania
	Slovenia
	Spain
	Sweden
	Switzerland
	Turkey
	Uganda
	USA
Right hon. Geoff Hoon MP	Belgium
Minister of State	Cyprus
	France
	Greece
	Slovenia
Jim Murphy MP	Belgium
Minister of State	Bosnia
	France
	Germany
	Luxembourg
	Netherlands
	Slovenia
	Spain
	Turkey
Right hon. Ian McCartney MP	Botswana
Minister of State	Germany
	South Africa
Right hon. Dr Kim Howells MP	Afghanistan
Minister of State	Bahrain
	Barbados
	Brazil
	Canada
	Chile
	Colombia
	Egypt
	Ghana
	India
	Iraq
	Jamaica
	Jordan
	Lebanon
	Libya
	Nigeria
	Norway
	Oman
	Pakistan
	Peru
	Portugal
	Qatar
	Saudi Arabia
	Sri Lanka
	Turkey
	Uruguay
	USA
Right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown MP	Afghanistan
Minister of State	China
	Egypt
	Ethiopia
	India
	Japan
	Kenya
	Mongolia
	Pakistan
	Sudan
	Switzerland
	Uganda
	USA
Lord Triesman	Dominican Republic
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State	Panama
	Spain
Meg Munn MP	Ascension
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State	Bermuda
	Cayman Islands
	Dominican Republic

2007-08	
	Country
	Falkland Islands
	Jamaica
	Mexico
	New Zealand
	Panama
	Singapore
	Thailand

2008-09	
	Country
Right hon. David Miliband	Afghanistan
Secretary of State	Belgium
	Bosnia
	China
	Czech Republic
	Egypt
	Finland
	France
	Georgia
	Germany
	India
	Iraq
	Ireland
	Israel
	Japan
	Kosovo
	Kuwait
	Lebanon
	Luxembourg
	Norway
	Occupied Palestinian Territories
	Pakistan
	Romania
	Saudi Arabia
	Serbia
	Slovakia
	Slovenia
	South Africa
	Sudan
	Sweden
	Syria
	Turkey
	Ukraine
	United Arab Emirates
	USA
Right hon. Dr Kim Howells MP	Algeria
Minister of State	Bolivia
	Brazil
	Germany
	Morocco
	Peru
	Qatar
	South Africa
	Yemen
Right hon. Jim Murphy MP	Azerbaijan
Minister of State	Belgium
	Czech Republic
	France
	Georgia
	Germany
	Gibraltar
	Hungary
	Italy
	Luxembourg
	Poland
	Spain
	USA
Right hon. Caroline Flint MP	Belgium
Minister of State	Bulgaria
	Croatia
	Cyprus
	Czech Republic
	France
	Germany
	Greece
	Ireland
	Macedonia
	Spain
	Turkey
	Ukraine
Right hon. Lord Malloch Brown	Argentina
Minister of State	Bangladesh
	Brazil
	China
	Democratic Republic of Congo
	Egypt
	Ethiopia
	France
	Ghana
	India
	Japan
	Kenya
	Maldives
	Myanmar
	Nepal
	Netherlands
	Nigeria
	Norway
	Russia
	Rwanda
	Saudi Arabia
	Sierra Leone
	Singapore
	South Africa

2008-09

	Country
	Sri Lanka
	Switzerland
	Thailand
	USA
	Zambia
Bill Rammell MP	China
Minister of State	Indonesia
	Israel
	Japan
	Libya
	Occupied Palestinian Territories
	South Korea
	Syria
	Tunisia
Gillian Merron MP	Brazil
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State	Jamaica
	Pakistan
	Trinidad
Meg Munn MP	Australia
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State	Barbados
	Belize
	Cambodia
	Costa Rica
	Guatemala
	Malaysia
	Mexico
	New Zealand
	Niue (Pacific)
	Philippines
	Singapore
	Spain

2009-10

	Country
Right hon. David Miliband	Afghanistan
Secretary of State	Belgium
	Bermuda
	Bosnia
	Canada
	China
	Czech Republic
	Denmark
	France
	Germany
	Gibraltar
	Greece
	Ireland
	Italy
	Jordan
	Luxembourg
	Pakistan
	Poland
	Portugal
	Russia
	Saudi Arabia
	Spain
	Sri Lanka
	Sweden
	Switzerland
	the Netherlands
	Trinidad and Tobago
	Turkey
	USA
Bill Rammell MP	Bahrain
Minister of State	Cambodia
	Egypt
	USA
	Vietnam
Right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown MP	Angola
Minister of State	Libya
	Mozambique
	South Africa
	Switzerland
	USA
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead	Belgium
Minister of State	Bosnia
	Democratic Republic of Congo
	Ethiopia
	France
	Georgia
	Jamaica
	Kazakhstan
	Kenya
	Luxembourg
	Nigeria
	South Africa
	Sudan
	Sweden
	Switzerland
	Trinidad and Tobago
	Uganda
	USA
Ivan Lewis MP	China
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State	Dubai
	Egypt
	Iraq
	Israel
	Lebanon
	Mali
	Morocco

2009-10	
	Country
	Palestine
	Syria
	Tibet
	USA
	Yemen
Gillian Merron MP	British Virgin Islands
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State	Colombia
	USA
Chris Bryant MP	Australia
	Belgium
	Chile
	Colombia
	Cyprus
	Germany
	Greece
	Laos
	Luxembourg
	Mexico
	New Zealand
	Papua New Guinea
	Peru
	Russia
	Spain
	Thailand
	Turkey
	Venezuela

Departmental Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 325-26W, on the diplomatic service, what constitutes the calculation of disproportionate cost; and on how many other occasions this answer has been provided by his Department since May 2010. [33826]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides written answers in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance which can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/guide_to_parliamentary_work.pdf

Guidance on the disproportionate cost threshold is issued by Her Majesty's Treasury in the form of a written ministerial statement. This was last issued in January 2010 (20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS).

No record is kept of the number of answers the FCO gives using disproportionate cost. These will be available in the *Official Report*.

European Union

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which powers he is seeking to repatriate from the EU. [33124]

Mr Lidington: The Government's priority is the EU Bill. This will increase democratic and parliamentary control, scrutiny and accountability in EU decision making. We have also begun initial work to review the EU's existing competences, to see if they strike the right balance between what should be done at EU level and national level. We will look at individual dossiers, such as the application of the working time directive in the UK, as well as the bigger picture. But, in accordance with the coalition agreement, we have been clear that there will be no transfer of power or competence from the UK to the EU during the lifespan of this Parliament.

Germany: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of anti-Semitism in Brandenburg, Germany and the surrounding area; what recent representations he has made to the Government of Germany on anti-Semitism in that country; and if he will make a statement. [33895]

Mr Lidington: The state Government of Brandenburg have said that in 2009 there were 109 instances of anti-Semitic crime in Brandenburg, four of them violent. I have made no representations to the Federal Government of Germany on this matter.

The German Government take the rights of their citizens seriously. The German constitution, the basic law, enshrines legal rights, including in matters of religion or race. Article 1 provides for 'The Protection of Human Dignity', Article 3 provides for 'Equality before the Law' and Article 4 provides for 'Freedom of Faith, of Conscience and of Creed'.

Section 130 of Germany's Penal Code also criminalises 'incitement to hatred' against any segment of the population. This carries a penalty of up to five years in prison.

Gulf States: Politics and Government

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what work his Department is undertaking with the government of Kuwait to encourage democratic reform amongst Gulf Cooperation Council countries. [33278]

Alistair Burt: We work closely with the Government of Kuwait to support their democratic process through ministerial, ambassadorial and working level discussions.

We also work closely with other Gulf partners on such issues.

Mechanisms such as the annual European Union/Gulf Cooperation Council Joint Ministerial Council, at which Kuwait is represented, also allow for wider discussions with all Gulf Cooperation Council partners.

Ivory Coast: Elections

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance he has offered in resolving the dispute in establishing a legitimate government in the Ivory Coast. [34135]

Mr Bellingham: The British Government fully support the position taken by the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States that Mr Alassane Ouattara was the winner of the presidential elections in Cote d'Ivoire. We support the efforts of these bodies to resolve the political crisis. We will continue to support measures that maintain pressure on Mr Laurent Gbagbo to cede power including sanctions against those impeding the will of the democratic majority.

Kuwait: Counter-terrorism

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department provides to the government of Kuwait to combat terrorist organisations in the Middle East. [33273]

Alistair Burt: The UK and Kuwait maintain close co-operation on counter-terrorism policy. On 9 August 2010 the UK and Kuwait signed a Memorandum of Understanding for security co-operation to facilitate the sharing of expertise and co-operate in the field of security in order to tackle any threats facing the two countries including fighting terrorism, organised crime and money laundering.

The recent visit to Kuwait made by my noble Friend Baroness Neville-Jones to speak at the Fourth Anti. Money-Laundering Conference highlighted the valuable work undertaken by the UK and Kuwait to combat illicit financing across the globe.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what the objectives of Government policy on the Middle East Peace Process are for 2011; [33759]

(2) what his most recent assessment is of progress on the Middle East Peace Process. [33760]

Alistair Burt: The window for peace in the middle east is closing as the facts on the ground change: there is an urgent need for progress to secure a two state solution, based on 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as the future capital of two states and with a fair settlement for refugees. This is important for Israelis, for Palestinians and for the international community, including the UK. We understand the depth of Israeli security concerns. But the strength of our friendship means that we can and must say frankly that we were disappointed that Israel did not renew the freeze on settlement construction and that peace talks are currently on hold. We will continue to work with the United States, the parties to the conflict and with our EU and UN partners to return to direct negotiations to achieve a two state solution.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made by the UN inquiry panel chaired by Geoffrey Palmer investigating the interception on 31 May 2010 of the Free Gaza movement flotilla. [33294]

Alistair Burt: The UN inquiry panel, headed by Geoffrey Palmer, last delivered a progress report to the UN Secretary-General on 15 September 2010. The report was largely procedural in nature, explaining the panel's understanding of the tasks at hand and working methods. We understand the panel is due to deliver its final report in March 2011 at the earliest.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary welcomed the UN Secretary-General's establishment of a panel of inquiry, and both Israel and Turkey's commitment to participate. The panel has an important role to play in investigating and resolving the dispute over the Gaza flotilla incident and preventing future recurrence. It is also vital that the existing national investigations proceed swiftly, transparently and rigorously to ensure full accountability.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 515W, on Palestinians: international assistance, what recent progress he has made together with his EU counterparts on further EU action for peace and security for Palestinians and Israelis. [33371]

Alistair Burt: The middle east peace process remains among the government's highest foreign policy priorities. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Israel and the Occupied Territories on 3-4 November 2010, during which he spoke with both Palestinian and Israeli Ministers to urge them to make progress.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also continues to work closely with his EU counterparts and the right hon. Baroness Ashton to explore the scope for further EU action.

The UK supported the December 2010 EU Foreign Affairs Council conclusions which reaffirmed the EU's stance supporting a negotiated two state solution. It remains the UK view that this is the only sustainable solution with a viable Palestinian state existing alongside a secure Israel recognised by her neighbours. These conclusions also expressed the EU's concern over the prevailing situation in Gaza. The EU reiterated its call for the immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answers of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 301W, and 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 515W, on Palestinians: international assistance, what recent progress has been made on lifting the Gaza blockade; and if he will make a statement. [33372]

Alistair Burt: Israel's recent announcement on exports was an encouraging step. The key will be implementation. We discuss these issues regularly with the Government of Israel and will continue to do so. Following the recent announcement the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development had positive discussions with the Government of Israel about the type and levels of exports they plan to achieve in 2011. We want to see a return to pre-2007 levels of exports in 2011 and have made clear that we stand ready, with EU partners, to work with Israel to achieve this.

Singapore: Press Freedom

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Government of Singapore on behalf of Mr Alan Shadrake; and if he will make a statement. [33829]

Mr Jeremy Browne: In my statement of 16 November 2010, I expressed dismay that Mr Shadrake had been convicted and sentenced to six weeks in jail in Singapore for expressing his personal views on the Singaporean legal system.

In January 2011, our high commissioner, Paul Madden, raised Mr Shadrake's case during his farewell call on Singapore's Foreign Minister, George Yeo, highlighting the UK position on freedom of expression. We will continue to call on all countries, including Singapore, to recognise the right to freedom of expression as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Our high commission in Singapore will continue to provide consular assistance to Mr Shadrake, as they have done since his arrest in July 2010. Mr Shadrake is currently appealing against his conviction.

Tanzania

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the deaths of protesters in Arusha, Tanzania. [33495]

Mr Bellingham: I was saddened to hear of the deaths in Arusha of protesters who were demonstrating against the outcome of the mayoral election held in December 2010. Our high commission in Tanzania is monitoring the situation closely. Our high commissioner is in contact at the highest level with the Government of Tanzania and Opposition leaders to clarify the circumstances of these tragic deaths, and to urge for a resolution through political dialogue.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with his Tanzanian counterpart; and if he will make a statement. [33496]

Mr Bellingham: The Under-Secretary of State for International Development, the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien) and I have had numerous discussions with senior members of the Tanzanian Government concerning all aspects of our bilateral relationship. These discussions have included the future of our trade and development relationships, and our joint work to advance peace and security in East Africa, in particular on the growing problem of piracy in the Indian ocean.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contact the British High Commission in Tanzania has had with opposition leaders in that country since their arrest in January 2010. [33497]

Mr Bellingham: Our high commission staff have been in touch with senior representatives of the opposition party since news broke of their arrest on 5 January. Our high commissioner spoke to Dr Slaa, Secretary-General of the Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Party for Democracy and Development) (CHADEMA), on 12 January 2011, following the funerals of those killed during the demonstrations, to stress the need for a peaceful resolution of differences through dialogue.

Turkey: Religious Freedom

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will meet his Turkish counterpart to discuss the religious *(a)* rights and *(b)* properties of the Greek Christian minority in Turkey. [33402]

Mr Lidington: Our embassy in Ankara raises the issue of respect for all religious minorities in its wider discussions on human rights with its Turkish counterparts. Respect for religious minority groups was also raised in the 2010 Progress Report on Turkey's EU Accession process.

West Africa: EU Immigration

Daniel Kawczyński: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for International Development on financial assistance for North African countries to deal with humanitarian issues relating to West African migrants coming to the EU. [33722]

Alistair Burt: Through the EU, the UK provides support to some north African countries to help implement their agreed country action plans. These funds support work across a number of areas, including migration and strengthening the rule of law. The Department for International Development does not provide direct support because it prioritises assistance to less developed countries.

TREASURY

Banks: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Northern Ireland Executive, *(b)* Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and *(c)* Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effects on Northern Ireland of banking regulation. [33741]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Capital Gains Tax

Bill Esterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will seek a refund of the capital gains tax levied by the Spanish Government on British citizens which the European Court of Justice has declared to be discriminatory. [33672]

Mr Gauke: These cases concern tax paid by individuals to a foreign state. It follows that the UK Government has no direct involvement and it is for the individuals themselves to take forward any action if they believe they have paid too much tax following a decision by the ECJ.

Commodity Markets: Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the regulation of commodity derivative markets; [33421]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure transparency in commodity derivative markets for *(a)* regulators, *(b)* market participants and *(c)* the public. [33424]

Mr Hoban: A number of European initiatives seek to increase transparency in derivatives markets, including commodity derivative markets. These include:

A proposed regulation on derivatives transactions, central counterparties and trade repositories, the detail of which is currently under negotiation in the European Council;

A review of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID), on which the European Commission has recently issued a consultation paper; and

A proposed regulation on energy market integrity and transparency, currently in the early stages of discussion in the European Council.

The UK supports the G20 commitment to improve transparency in financial and commodity markets and is closely engaged in these processes.

Departmental Bonuses

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on which occasions he has discussed with the chief executives of *(a)* Royal Bank of Scotland Group, *(b)* Lloyds Banking Group and *(c)* Barclays (i) the bonuses paid to their staff and (ii) their personal bonus since 1 December 2010. [34024]

Mr Hoban: The Chancellor of the Exchequer meets chief executives of UK banks on a range of issues. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Departmental Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many windows of his Department's premises in Whitehall were broken in *(a)* November and *(b)* December 2010; and on what dates such breakages occurred. [33407]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply as the windows that were broken were in HM Revenue and Customs' office at 100 Parliament street.

Four window panels were broken on 24 November 2010 and 41 window panels were broken on 9 December 2010.

Departmental Labour Turnover

Jesse Norman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the staff turnover rate in his Department was in each of the 15 years up to 2005. [33409]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him on 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 271W.

Information on the annual turnover for each of the 15 years up to 2005 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on press cuttings services in each year since 1997. [28141]

Justine Greening: Spending on press cuttings since 2002-03 is shown in the following table. Because of a change in accounting system in 2002-03, information in relation to earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	£
2002-03	279,717
2003-04	319,692
2004-05	268,198
2005-06	300,825
2006-07	229,632
2007-08	201,509
2008-09	395,651
2009-10	322,729

EU: Budget

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net UK contribution to the EU budget was in each of the last 10 years. [34010]

Justine Greening: Figures for the UK's gross and net contributions are available in the annual White Paper on the "EU Budget and measures to counter fraud and financial mismanagement". The latest publication is available in the House Library as well as online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/european_union_finances_2010.pdf

For convenience, the UK's gross and net contributions for the last 10 financial years are shown in the following table.

UK contributions to EU budget[1]

		£ billion
	Gross contribution[2]	*Net receipts*[3]
2001-02	4.8	-1.5
2002-03	6.5	-3.1
2003-04	7.5	-3.3
2004-05	8.5	-3.9
2005-06	8.1	-4.4
2006-07	8.7	-3.5
2007-08	9.8	-4.2
2008-09	7.6	-3.0
2009-10	9.5	-4.7
2010-11	12.6	-7.9

[1] Source—Various editions of the EU budget White Paper. 2010-11 projection from the OBR Autumn Forecast (Public Finances Supplementary Data, Table 1.6):
http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/econ-fiscal-outlook.html

[2] After UK abatement.

[3] Net of public sector receipts.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate revenue to accrue to the Exchequer in a financial year from fuel duty levied at the present rate on unleaded petrol and diesel on the basis of *(a)* the volume of fuel purchased in the most recent financial year for which figures are available and *(b)* an average price of £1.30 for diesel and £1.26 for petrol. [34011]

Justine Greening: Table C11 on page 100 of the June Budget (HC61) forecasts receipts from fuel duty in 2010-11 and through to 2015-16. An update will be provided in Budget 2011 on 23 March. Information on fuel supply volumes is available at:

www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil

Financial Services: Post Offices

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of delivering independent financial advice through the Post Office network. [33516]

Mr Hoban: The Government have asked the Consumer Financial Education Body (CFEB) to deliver a free and impartial national financial advice service that will be available to everyone in the UK online, over the phone and face-to-face, by spring 2011. This will increase levels of financial literacy and empower people to take charge of their finances.

CFEB invited bids to deliver the service last year. Post Office Ltd decided not to compete for the contract as they did not have the capacity to provide the advice required.

Fuels: Prices

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of introducing a fuel price stabiliser for the price of petrol. [33405]

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department is considering the introduction of a fuel duty stabiliser. [33611]

Mr Offord: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to introduce a fuel price stabiliser. [33613]

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration his Department has given to the introduction of a fuel price stabiliser for petrol prices. [34121]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Members for Hartlepool (Mr Wright), York Outer (Julian Sturdy), Hendon (Mr Offord) and the right hon. Member for Gordon (Malcolm Bruce) to the answer given on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 665W, to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith).

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has made an assessment of petrol prices in *(a)* rural and *(b)* island petrol forecourts; and if his Department will undertake a study of the effects of such prices on rural economies; [34074]

(2) what the timetable is for discussions with the European Commission on his plans for a rural fuel duty rebate; and if he will make a statement. [34075]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Mr MacNeil) on 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1143W.

A range of evidence is being considered as part of the work prior to submitting a formal proposal to the European Commission for a pilot scheme that will deliver a maximum of five pence per litre duty discount on petrol and diesel in remote rural areas.

Income Tax

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people will be taken out of income tax as a result of the £1,000 increase in the personal allowance in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* parliamentary constituency. [33367]

Mr Gauke: June 2010 Budget estimates of the number of persons taken out of income tax as a result of the £1,000 increase in the personal allowance in 2011-12 by Government office region are provided in the following table.

Government office region	*Number taken out of tax (thousand)*
North East	38
North West and Merseyside	107
Yorkshire and the Humber	79
East Midlands	64
West Midlands	77
East of England	83
London	110
South East	108
South West	76
Wales	41
Scotland	71
Northern Ireland	25
All	880

These estimates are calculated using the HMRC Personal Tax Model, based on 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes data projected to 2011-12 in line with the June 2010 Budget assumptions.

It not possible to produce reliable estimates for local authorities and parliamentary constituencies due to small sample sizes at these levels of geography.

Information on the distribution of taxpayer numbers by LA and PC in 2007-08 is available on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#315

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many basic rate taxpayers will pay less tax as a result of the £1,000 increase in the personal allowance in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [33368]

Mr Gauke: In the June 2010 Budget it was estimated that 23 million basic rate taxpayers will gain an average of £170 in 2011-12.

This estimate is calculated using HMRC Personal Tax Model, based on 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes data projected to 2011-12 in line with June 2010 Budget assumptions.

Numbers of basic rate taxpayers who will benefit in later years will be broadly comparable, increasing gradually over time assuming indexation of the basic rate limit.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the likely effects of changes to the claimant count forecast in the November Economic and Fiscal Outlook on projections for expenditure on *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* housing benefit. [33369]

Mr Gauke: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Letter from Robert Chote, dated 13 January 2011:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility I have been asked to reply to your recent question.

The forecast effects of changes to the claimant count forecast in the November 2010 "Economic and fiscal outlook" on the forecast for these benefits are shown in Table 4.16 of the "Economic and fiscal outlook" document. The figures are contained in the line in Table 4.16 that shows the change in DWP benefit payments on account of changes in the economic assumption for unemployment.

The effects on benefits from the changes to the claimant count forecast shown in that table are in the order of £0.2 billion, or less. These figures cover changes to jobseeker's allowance and housing benefits, and also some negligible amounts to council tax benefit. The OBR only shows forecasts of spending to the nearest £0.1 billion, and most of the changes to the underlying benefits are less than £0.1 billion.

Lloyds TSB: Compensation

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department plans to take steps to address Lloyds TSB shareholders' compensation claims arising from the HBOS/Lloyds TSB merger. [32128]

Mr Hoban: Treasury has received a letter written on behalf of certain shareholders in Lloyds, alleging that the circular sent out by Lloyds to its shareholders in advance of the HBOS acquisition was misleading, and that Treasury is responsible for that. Treasury has replied, strongly refuting the allegation.

Maternity Payments: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Sure Start maternity grants were made to mothers for a second or subsequent child by the Jobcentre Plus social fund budget area that covers Gateshead constituency in 2009-10. [19131]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The Jobcentre Plus social fund budget area that covers the constituency of Gateshead is Northumbria. A total of 4,800 Sure Start maternity grants were awarded for Northumbria in 2009-10. The exact number of awards for a second or subsequent child for Northumbria in 2009-10 is not available, but is estimated to be 52% of all awards, namely 2,500.

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using official/national statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as official/national statistics and there are some issues with the data; for example, the total number of Sure Start maternity grant awards for Northumbria does not include claims which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.

2. Both numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System (for total number of awards for Northumbria).

The estimate of 52% was obtained by analysing families in Great Britain with a child (or children) aged under one from the Department for Work and Pensions Income Support and Jobseeker's Allowance Quarterly Statistical Enquiries for August 2009.

Oil and Food: Prices

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect on *(a)* inflation and *(b)* economic growth of likely increases in (i) oil and (ii) food prices in 2011. [33354]

Justine Greening: The Government consider a range of factors when making their assessment of the UK economy. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) set out its forecast for the economy in its November 2010 "Economic and Fiscal Outlook". The OBR's inflation forecast is broadly consistent with the Bank of England and HM Treasury's latest average of independent forecasts.

Pensions and Benefits: Uprating

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to consult the UK Statistics Authority on his proposed changes to the index-linking arrangements for pensions and benefits; and if he will make a statement. [32020]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply, and I apologise for the delay in replying.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr Bain) on 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 100W.

Renewables Obligation

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 209W, on the renewables obligation, if he will estimate the contribution of the renewables obligation to the total tax burden; and if he will estimate the sum attributed from the renewables obligation to public expenditure. [33365]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published a forecast of the Renewables Obligation (RO) in its "Economic and fiscal outlook" on 29 November

2010. This forecast is consistent with the ONS's current methodology for evaluating tax and spend through the RO, though the ONS are currently reviewing this.

RO outturn and forecast data can be found in table 1.3 at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/fiscal_supplementary_tables_291110.xls

The OBR also produce forecasts for the total tax burden, known as National Accounts taxes in table 4.6 (p91) of the Economic and Fiscal Outlook. This is available at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf

Revenue and Customs: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which individuals and organisations he plans to consult on the future of HM Revenue and Customs staff and buildings in Liverpool following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review; and when he expects such consultation processes to commence; [33219]

(2) whom he plans to consult on the future of the HM Revenue and Customs estate in Liverpool; and when he expects the consultation to take place. [34120]

Mr Gauke: The purpose of the review of the Liverpool estate is to establish business requirements for the future and how this will shape estate requirements. As part of this, HMRC will consult with the Government Property Unit about the estate requirements of other Government Departments in the Liverpool area and internally with business managers and, via the trade unions, with members of staff. Consultation has already started and will be taken forward jointly by HMRC's Workforce Management Programme and the Estate Consolidation Programme.

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the results of the latest review of the HM Revenue and Customs estate in Liverpool; and what options he is considering for the future of that estate. [33220]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has not yet completed the latest review of its estate in Liverpool. Options under consideration include the vacation of its building at Queens Dock but no decisions have yet been taken. This was communicated to staff at the four offices in Liverpool in December. Discussions with internal business units and the Government Property Unit in relation to wider civil estate needs have already started and HMRC expects to be able to publish the outcome of the review of the Liverpool estate in spring 2011.

Tax Collection: Debts

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many and what proportion of people had tax debts of under £10,000 in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many and what proportion of these cases he estimates will be referred to private sector debt collection agencies; [33481]

(2) whether his Department plans to allow private sector debt collection agencies to undertake door-to-door visits to taxpayers to recover debts. [33482]

Mr Gauke: Centrally collated information on the number and proportion of people who have tax debts of under £10,000 is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HMRC will be referring a range of types, sizes and ages of debts to private sector debt collection agencies in 2010-11, including debts relating to both individual and business debtors. This will accelerate the collection of lower value debts and is expected to generate an additional £140 million from debts that might otherwise be written off.

HMRC does not currently refer cases to private sector debt collection agencies for door-to-door visits, and this work is currently undertaken in-house by HMRC. There are no current plans to change this approach.

Taxation

Mr Byrne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of tax receipts for *(a)* business services, *(b)* education, health and social work, *(c)* financial intermediation, *(d)* manufacturing and *(e)* other wholesale and retail trade from (i) personal tax, (ii) direct business tax, (iii) consumption tax, (iv) property tax and (v) environmental tax in (A) 1998-99, (B) 1999-2000, (C) 2000-01, (D) 2001-02 and (E) 2002-03. [33788]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 463-64W.

The full breakdown of tax receipts outlined in the question is not available.

HMRC produces a breakdown by broad industrial sector for corporation tax, PAYE income tax and class 1 national insurance contributions (NICs) and value added tax (VAT). No breakdown by industrial sector for self-assessment taxation or property and environmental taxes is available.

As for the previous answer, historical figures for corporation tax receipts paid by several broadly-defined business sectors for the years requested are published in Table 11.1 on the HMRC National Statistics website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.pdf

For personal taxes a breakdown by sector can be produced for PAYE income tax and class 1 NICs received by HMRC in respect of employee and employer liabilities. Figures for the requested sectors are as follows:

£ million

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*
Business services	22,830	26,582	28,050	27,948
Education	11,441	12,442	13,206	14,105
Health and social work	8,648	9,035	9,659	10,845

				£ million
	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*
Financial intermediation	11,866	15,525	15,115	15,536
Manufacturing	24,185	24,752	23,925	23,731
Wholesale and retail trade	14,944	15,824	15,978	17,025

Figures are not available for years prior to 1999-2000. The sectors are defined by the Office for National Statistics' standard industrial classification 2003.

Declared VAT is published by trade group in the VAT factsheet, table 2.3:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factvat

Archived factsheets provide figures for earlier years:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factarchive&factcategory=8

Figures for 2001, 2002 and 2003 not contained in the archived factsheets are in the following table. These data relate to calendar years and are not available in financial year format. Figures for earlier years are not available.

Total net tax

			£ million
	2001	*2002*	*2003*
Business services	14,792	16,618	18,315
Education	118	53	50
Health and social work	167	205	215
Financial intermediation	500	725	969
Manufacturing	9,733	12,267	12,924
Wholesale and retail trade	18,886	19,350	20,759

These sectors are defined by the Office for National Statistics' standard industrial classification 2003.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to his Department's document, "Furnished Holiday Lettings: a summary of responses", (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the metrics *(a)* used in the impact assessment to calculate the anticipated differential impact on businesses in remote and rural areas of changes to related eligibility criteria and *(b)* which underpinned the conclusion that evidence suggested that the projected asymmetry was not of sufficient scale to outweigh the considerations which led to the Government's proposals; [33846]

(2) if he will place in the Library the numerical basis used to inform the impact assessment; [33847]

(3) what field research was undertaken in Scotland and Northern Ireland; and in what ways the findings of such research influenced the position set out in the key findings and the Government's response; [33848]

(4) how many *(a)* supportive and *(b)* negative responses were received to question five in his Department's consultation on furnished holiday lettings from respondents in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* each region in England. [33802]

Mr Gauke: The impact assessment includes relevant information to assess the costs, benefits and risks of proposed legislation and forms the basis on which decisions are made.

There is no intention to prepare additional material for publication other than that which has already been published.

The key findings and Government response set out in the document were informed by representations received and meetings held with interested parties.

Responses to question 5 in the consultation were not categorised as supportive or negative as this was a factual question seeking evidence on regional variations.

Taxation: International Co-operation

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tax information exchange agreements the Government have established with other countries; and whether he has any plans to review such agreements. [33384]

Mr Gauke: Tax information exchange agreements are in force with Bermuda, the Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey, the British Virgin Islands, Liechtenstein, Gibraltar and the Bahamas. Similar agreements have been signed with Anguilla, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Grenada, Belize, San Marino, the former Netherlands Antilles, Aruba and Liberia, but these have yet to enter into force. The United Kingdom can also exchange information with over 100 other jurisdictions through our network of agreements for the avoidance of double taxation and under bilateral agreements regarding the taxation of income from savings. All international tax agreements are kept under review.

Information on all the UK's international tax agreements is available on the HMRC website.

VAT: Charities

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the cost to charities in 2011 of raising the value added tax rate to 20%; and if he will make a statement. [33809]

Mr Gauke: Charities benefit from a range of tax reliefs, which for 2009-10 the Government estimate are worth approximately £3 billion per annum. These include reliefs from VAT. For example: VAT zero-rating on the sale of donated goods, medical and scientific equipment and, for qualifying charities, goods for use by disabled people. All zero rates are derogations from the normal EU VAT rules and represent benefits not enjoyed by charities elsewhere in Europe.

Charities carrying out non-taxable activities may incur irrecoverable VAT on their purchases, but information is not available to assess accurately the amount or the effect of the increase in the standard rate of VAT.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of changing the value added tax (VAT) rules to ensure that charities are not adversely affected by the recent rise in VAT; and if he will make a statement. [33810]

Mr Gauke: The Government inherited an exceptional fiscal challenge. The most urgent priority is to tackle the record budget deficit to restore confidence in our economy and support the recovery. We recognise that the increase in the rate of VAT is unwelcome, but it is necessary to sustain public finances and ensure long-term fiscal stability.

The Government support charities. Charity tax reliefs are currently worth around £3 billion a year, of which Gift Aid makes up over £1 billion, and the Government are committed to retaining the existing VAT zero rates for charities, which provide them with a benefit of around £200 million. We will continue to look at options within the VAT system where these are available to us and affordable within agreed funding arrangements.

VAT: Pensioners

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average annual cost to a pensioner of the increase in the rate of value added tax. [34028]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Clwyd South (Susan Elan Jones) on 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 170W.

VAT: Third Sector

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the amount of additional value added tax to be paid by charities, voluntary organisations and the third sector in each financial year to 2015-16 attributable to the increase in the basic rate of this tax on 4 January 2011. [33345]

Mr Gauke: Charities benefit from a range of tax reliefs, which for 2009-10 the Government estimate are worth approximately £3 billion per annum. These include reliefs from VAT; for example: VAT zero-rating on the sale of donated goods, medical and scientific equipment and, for qualifying charities, goods for use by disabled people. All zero rates are derogations from the normal EU VAT rules and represent benefits not enjoyed by charities elsewhere in Europe.

Charities carrying out non-taxable activities may incur irrecoverable VAT on their purchases but information is not available to assess accurately the amount or the effect of the increase in the standard rate of VAT.

VAT: Tourism

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations his Department has received from *(a)* Visit Britain and *(b)* other interested bodies on the effect on businesses in the (i) restaurant and (ii) hotel sectors of the level of value added tax. [33524]

Mr Gauke: The Department has received no representations from Visit Britain on these points. The hospitality sector has long argued that it should be subject to a reduced rate of VAT.

Ways and Means: Financial Statement

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to his contribution of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 178, on ways and means: financial statement, what progress has been made towards the introduction of a fuel stabiliser; if he will introduce a fuel rebate for residents of remote rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [34228]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Lady to the answers given to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith) on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 665W and to the hon. Member for Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Mr MacNeil) on 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1143W.

DEFENCE

15 Brigade Headquarters

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the annual amount of carbon dioxide emissions arising from travel of personnel between 15 Brigade headquarters and the units under its command at *(a)* its current location in York and *(b)* a new location at Catterick. [33513]

Mr Gerald Howarth: It is not possible to provide a meaningful estimate of the carbon dioxide emissions arising from the travel of personnel between 15 (North East) Brigade headquarters and the units under its command at this time.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many disabled service and ex-service personnel work at *(a)* 15 Brigade headquarters and *(b)* other locations at Imphal Barracks, York. [33514]

Mr Gerald Howarth: There are no disabled service personnel currently working at Imphal Barracks, York, but 13 civilians working at the barracks have declared themselves as disabled. We are unable to say how many of those civilians are ex-service personnel, as civilian personnel are not required to declare whether they are ex-service.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will commission an equality and diversity report to assess the suitability of *(a)* the 15 Brigade headquarters premises at York and *(b)* Bourlon Barracks at Catterick for employment of disabled service and ex-service personnel. [33515]

Mr Gerald Howarth: We regularly review our obligations under equality and diversity policies at all our bases and a review was conducted at 15 Brigade Headquarters in December 2010.

There are no firm plans at present to locate further units at Bourlon Barracks in Catterick. However, should a decision be made to develop Bourlon Barracks, we would comply with the legal requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to ensure that the needs of all disabled personnel are taken into account.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the capital cost of bringing Bourlon Barracks at Catterick up to the standard required for use as a brigade or garrison headquarters; if he will estimate the staff redundancy and recruitment costs which would arise from moving 15 Brigade headquarters from York to Catterick; and if he will carry out a full investment appraisal before deciding where to locate the 15 Brigade headquarters. [33518]

Mr Gerald Howarth: Bourlon Barracks is being retained as a site for future development within the catterick long-term development plan, which could see additional units being moved to Catterick. No estimate of costs involved has been made since there are no firm plans at present.

A project team has been set up to review the headquarters structure of the regional divisions and brigades within the UK and it is currently looking at the functional responsibilities and span of control of each of the Brigades. This work is expected to be completed later this year.

Afghanistan

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the recently planned official visit to Afghanistan of James Blunt and Katherine Jenkins did not take place; and if he will make a statement. [33758]

Nick Harvey: Katherine Jenkins and James Blunt were due to fly to Afghanistan on a civilian chartered aircraft on 20 December 2010. Due to a technical issue, a spare part was required. Unfortunately, by the time it took to arrive and once a time to enter European airspace was reallocated (which was beyond our control), the crew had exceeded their duty time, necessitating the cancellation of the flight. With the general disruption to the airbridge and to civilian flights into and out of the UK as a result of snow, they were understandably unable to rearrange their schedules. Therefore, regrettably, the visit did not take place.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much rest and recuperation a soldier serving in Afghanistan has received on average in each of the last three years. [33366]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only through a manual search of records. However, on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 29-30WS, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced that all service personnel serving tours in Afghanistan and Iraq of six months or longer will continue to receive two weeks mid-tour leave, but now with a guarantee that any days lost owing to delays in transit or for any other operational reason will be made up at the end of their tour.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers serving in Afghanistan assigned to home leave for Christmas 2010 did not return to the UK by 25 December 2010. [33436]

Mr Gerald Howarth: None. Despite adverse weather conditions and technical issues, all members of the armed forces serving in Afghanistan who were due to be back in the UK for rest and recuperation over the Christmas period arrived before 25 December 2010.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the level of poverty among armed forces veterans who retired before 1975 and do not receive a full armed forces pension; and what welfare provision his Department offers to people who retired from the armed forces before 1975. [33079]

Mr Gerald Howarth: No such estimate has been made. The Government provide a comprehensive programme of support for all ex-service personnel. All former service personnel facing difficulties in their civilian lives, regardless of when they retired from service, have access to the free veterans helpline and the veterans welfare service, which provides tailored advice and support to those in need.

We are committed to rebuilding the Military Covenant and officials are in regular discussion with the Department of Health, Ministry of Justice, Department of Communities and Local Government the Department of Work and Pensions, the devolved Administrations and others to ensure that former servicemen and women receive the services they deserve.

Former service personnel injured as a result of service before 6 April 2005 can apply for compensation in the form of a war pension, and this includes those who served before 1975 and who are not in receipt of a full armed forces occupational pension. For those whose disablement affects their ability to work, additional provision may be made in the form of supplementary allowances, paid in addition to the war pension. All pensions and allowances are tax-free and can be worth up to £520 per week.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the criteria for entitlement to a full armed forces pension for people who retired from the armed forces before 1975 were last reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [33209]

Mr Robathan: No such review has been conducted as the criteria for entitlement to a full armed forces pension is the same for those who retired both before and after 1975.

Prior to 1975, officers who left service at age 55 with 34 years reckonable service, and other ranks who left at age 55 with 37 years reckonable service, were entitled to a full career pension. This qualifying period remained the same when the armed forces pension scheme 1975 was introduced.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the merits of extending eligibility for an armed forces pension to those who retired from the armed forces before 1975. [33210]

Mr Robathan: No. It is a principle of public service pensions policy, and one that has been upheld by successive Governments, that any changes to pension schemes are not made retrospective. It is a legal principle that individuals receive the benefits in accordance with the scheme rules in place at the time of their retirement.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of extending eligibility for a full armed forces pension to those who retired from the armed forces before 1975; and what proportion of his Department's budget this would represent in 2011-12. [33211]

Mr Robathan: No specific estimate has been made of the cost of backdating armed forces preserved pensions prior to 1975 but as the number of those affected is large, the costs would be considerable and likely to run into billions of pounds.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces veterans who retired before 1975 and do not receive a full armed forces pension live in *(a)* Wigan constituency, *(b)* the north-west and *(c)* the UK. [33212]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held.

Greece: World War II

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to ensure that the Red Arrows and the Royal Navy participate in the Kalamata memorial service for the Greek campaign in May 2011. [34127]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Government fully endorse the importance of commemorating past conflicts in which UK forces were involved, showing respect for those who gave their lives in many parts of the world for their country.

I can confirm that a request has been made for Royal Navy and Royal Air Force (Red Arrows) support at the Kalamata memorial service for the Greek campaign in 2011 and this is currently under consideration.

Met Office

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the Met Office published estimates in October 2010 which showed a 60 to 80% chance of warmer-than-average temperatures in the winter of 2010; and what the scientific basis of such estimates was. [33130]

Mr Robathan: This was one piece of raw computer model output, published in the science area of the Met Office website for international collaboration with other scientists and not issued as a long range forecast to the public. Met Office forecasts are produced by weighing up all available evidence. In late October 2010, based on all available evidence, the Met Office advised that there was an increased risk for a cold and wintry start to the winter season.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flight hours there are on each airframe in the *(a)* VC-10, *(b)* TriStar and *(c)* Nimrod R 1 fleets. [33449]

Nick Harvey: The following table gives the total flying hours undertaken by each airframe of the VC10, TriStar and Nimrod R1 fleets. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred hours.

Tail number	*Total flying hours*
VC10	
XV101	43,000
XV102	41,400
XV104	38,700
XV105	38,000
XV106	41,500
XV107	38,800
XV108	38,400
XR808	43,200
ZA147	48,800
ZA148	47,400
ZA149	41,700
ZA150	39,200
ZD241	52,100
TriStar	
ZD948	33,400
ZD949	29,700
ZD950	31,300
ZD951	29,900
ZD952	35,700
ZD953	29,900
ZE704	50,100
ZE705	51,800
ZE706	38,400
Nimrod R1	
XW664	21,100
XW249	18,200

The total flying hours of an aircraft do not on their own determine the operational utility, condition or remaining service life. All aircraft have appropriate scheduled and preventative maintenance programmes. Aircraft can also be extended in service through specific programmes to extend fatigue-life and additional or upgraded capabilities can be fitted to older aircraft.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what factors his Department's decision of 28 February 2002 to discontinue the Sea Harrier FA2 was based. [33742]

Nick Harvey: The decision to discontinue the Sea Harrier was made by the previous Government. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer provided by the then Minister for the Armed Forces on 28 February 2002, *Official Report*, column 1453W.

Military Bases: Okehampton

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the room booking schedule for accommodation at Okehampton Training Camp for August 2011; and if he will make a statement; [33617]

(2) how many beds there are at Okehampton Training Camp; on what basis such beds are allocated; and if he will make a statement. [33618]

Mr Gerald Howarth: A copy of the August 2011 electronic room schedule for Okehampton Training Camp is being placed in the Library of the House.

Of the 776 beds at Okehampton training camp, only 517 are covered by the contractual agreement between Defence Estates and Landmarc Support Services. The use of any beds above that number is charged at a higher rate. The current assessment is that all 517 beds are required in August 2011 for military training purposes (and on the basis of previous years it is likely that all 776 beds may be required in August for military personnel).

Beds are allocated in accordance with the military booking priorities set out in "Joint Service Publication 907". A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

RAF Kinloss

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of returning the RAF Kinloss site to its original owners in its *(a)* current state and *(b)* original condition as agricultural land. [33011]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has not yet made an assessment.

When an airfield is declared surplus to defence requirements it is normal for MOD to investigate the Crichel Down (Former Owner) position. Whatever the outcome of any eventual investigation, there is no obligation to return it to its original condition.

The strategic defence and security review concluded that the RAF would not need Kinloss and two other bases; no final decisions have been made about alternative military use.

War Pensions

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will estimate the change in unemployability allowance payable to a member of each of the armed forces at each rank living until *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years as a result of the use of the consumer price index rather than the retail price index to calculate such allowances; [34123]

(2) if he will estimate the change in disablement gratuity for each specified minor injury to a member of each of the armed forces at each rank living until *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years as a result of the use of the consumer price index rather than the retail price index to calculate such sums; [34124]

(3) if he will estimate the change in disability pension payable to a member of each of the armed forces at each rank living until *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years as a result of the use of the consumer price index rather than the retail price index to calculate such pensions; [34125]

(4) what estimate he has made of the savings which will accrue to his Department from the change in pension indexation from the retail price index to the consumer price index in each financial year to 2019-20. [34182]

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much less exceptionally severe disablement allowance a member of the armed forces in each of the three forces retiring at each rank would receive as a result of the change to link pensions to the consumer prices index from the retail prices index if they lived until *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years; [34176]

(2) how much less mobility allowance a member of the armed forces in each of the three forces retiring at each rank would receive as a result of the change to link pensions to the consumer prices index from the retail prices index if they lived to the age of *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years; [34177]

(3) how much less invalidity allowance a member of the armed forces in each of the three forces retiring at each rank would receive as a result of the change to link pensions to the consumer prices index from the retail prices index if they lived to the age of *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years; [34178]

(4) how much less constant attendance allowance a member of the armed forces in each of the three forces retiring at each rank would receive as a result of the change to link pensions to the consumer prices index from the retail prices index if they lived to the age of *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years; [34179]

(5) how much less comforts allowance a member of the armed forces in each of the three forces retiring at each rank would receive as a result of the change to link pensions to the consumer prices index from the retail prices index if they lived to the age of *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years. [34180]

Mr Gerald Howarth: No assessment of the kind requested can be made as future movements of the retail price index and consumer price index rates are not known.

Such is the scale of the country's economic problems that we inherited, no part of society—not even the armed forces—can be fully exempt from the need to find ways to reduce the budget deficit, and some tough policy decisions have therefore had to be made. Armed forces pensions and compensation benefits cannot be treated in isolation from other public sector schemes and benefits.

The emergency Budget announced that from April 2011 the indexation of benefits, tax credits and the state second pension will be based on the consumer prices index (CPI) instead of the retail prices index (RPI). This change will also apply to public service pensions through the statutory link to the indexation of the additional pensions in long-term benefits. This link has been in place since 1979.

Legislation which governs the uprating of pensions requires consideration to be given to increases in the general level of prices estimated in such manner as the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions thinks fit—and therefore contemplates that different methods of doing so may be used from time to time. The Government consider that CPI, already used to set the inflation target for the Bank of England, is the appropriate index to use going forward and will provide protection against inflation. Unlike the RPI, the way the index is constructed is designed to take account of the fact that consumers will tend to 'shop around', switching to cheaper alternatives when relative prices for similar goods change.

The change in indexation is forward looking, so future increases in the value of deferred pensions, or pensions in payment will be based on the CPI. For this reason the Government believe that this is not a reduction of accrued rights—public service pensions will continue to be index linked and continue to protect individual pensions against increases in the cost of living.

EDUCATION

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 607W, on Building Schools for the Future programme, how many pieces of correspondence his Department received in support of the ending of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [24810]

Mr Gibb: As noted in my reply to the hon. Lady given on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 607W, the Department for Education is able to provide information on the number of items of correspondence received on a specific subject but is unable to provide information on specific correspondence content.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service. [31751]

Tim Loughton: The future of CAFCASS is being considered as part of the family justice review, which is currently under way.

The review panel will be issuing an interim report in spring 2011 and a final report in September 2011. Future decisions about CAFCASS and the wider family justice system will be made in the light of the panel's conclusions.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average time taken for CAFCASS to allocate cases in each region was in the latest period for which figures are available. [31753]

Tim Loughton: This question relates to an operational matter for which CAFCASS is responsible. I have asked CAFCASS's chief executive, Anthony Douglas, to write to the hon. Gentleman with the requested information. A copy of the letter will be laid in the House Library in due course.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people CAFCASS employed in *(a)* its head office and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [31755]

Tim Loughton: CAFCASS England employs a total of 2,037 staff. Of this number, 154 staff are employed in its national office and the remaining 1,883 are based across England. This information was correct at 15 December 2010.

Children in Care

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children *(a)* in total, *(b)* of asylum seekers and *(c)* who had been trafficked entered local authority care in each of the last five years. [32389]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 10 January 2011]*: The number of children who have entered care including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the last five years is included in the following table. We do not centrally collect the number of looked-after children who may have been trafficked into the country.

Children who started to be looked-after during the years ending 31 March[1, 2, 3, 4] years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010, coverage: England

					Number
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
All children who started to be looked-after	24,600	24,000	23,300	25,700	27,800
Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who started to be looked-after	2,300	2,200	2,200	2,600	1,600

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked-after in the year has been counted.

[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[4] Figures exclude children looked-after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

Source:
SSDA903.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children *(a)* in total, *(b)* of asylum seekers and *(c)* who had been trafficked went missing from local authority care in each of the last five years. [32390]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 10 January 2011]*: The number of children in care who went missing from care in the last five years, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, is included in the following table. We do not centrally collect the number of looked-after children who may have been trafficked into the country and who have gone missing from care.

Children looked-after who went missing from care during the year ending 31 March[1, 2, 3, 4, 5] years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010, coverage: England

					Number
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
All children looked-after who went missing from care	890	970	980	930	810
Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children looked-after who went missing from care	110	90	110	90	90

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

[2] Figures exclude children looked-after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[4] Children who went missing on more than one occasion during the year have been counted once.

[5] Includes looked-after children who were missing from care for a period of more than 24 hours.

Source:
SSDA903.

Children: Databases

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the National Signposting Service following the end of the ContactPoint database; and if he will make a statement. [34126]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has been exploring the practicality of a new national signposting service in detail, together with relevant partners. I have recently written to Professor Eileen Munro, to ask her to consider this issue as part of her wider review into child protection, and she has agreed to take this on as part of her remit. I have placed a copy of the letter, which details some of the progress to date, and lays out the scope for Professor Munro to consider this issue, in the House Libraries.

Professor Munro and I are agreed on the importance of avoiding the creation of any unnecessary demands on social workers and others at the front line. Any solution must be firmly focused on helping front-line professionals to spend as much time as possible helping vulnerable children and families.

Professor Munro's interim report is due at the end of January and she will submit her final report to Ministers by the end of April 2011.

Letter from Tim Loughton, dated 8 November 2010:

I am writing further to the meeting with key partners on 19 October to confirm next steps in relation to a possible national signposting service and the implications for your further work on your review of child protection.

We share the starting position set out in my Written Ministerial Statement of 22 July. Front-line practitioners need to be able to provide support for the most vulnerable children when they move across local authority boundaries or access services in more than one area. Experience and research have shown the potential value of a quick and reliable means of discovering whether a child or young person has been or is the subject of a child protection plan and/or whether they are or have been a looked after child or young person. Following the roundtable discussion, we agreed that it is worth considering a national approach to these issues.

We agree that any national approach must be fit for purpose, proportionate and relate to a clear need. It must also be cost effective and have benefits for the front line of child protection. This was not the case with ContactPoint. However, while recognising that ICT can never be the whole answer to improving front-line practice, it is worth considering whether ICT might play a useful role in supporting aspects of social work and the protection of children and young people—as indeed you have pointed out in your first review report. Our next steps on a possible national signposting service must therefore be taken forward in that context.

At the end of the 19 October meeting, I drew out some clear propositions which had emerged from the discussion as a starting point for further work. If a new ICT system is the solution, or part of the solution, the children in scope should be limited to: those who are looked after; those with child protection plans; and, subject to further consideration of legal issues particularly relating to consent, those who have been the subject of section 47 investigations, it is important that any database only contains details of children known to be at risk, otherwise it could fall into disrepute. Clear criteria would also need to be in place for the removal of a child's details from the database.

As you know, the Department has already explored the feasibility of a 'national signposting system'. This work has concluded that:

such a signposting service is technically feasible

among practitioners and their representatives there is no consensus over scope and purpose, but a presumption that if it goes ahead, its coverage should be tightly defined. As I have indicated, this is the presumption that I shall make

similarly, there is a range of views on the practitioners who may need access, whether direct or mediated, to a signposting system

there may be scope for improvement of existing protocols and local practice, rather than, or in addition to, a new tool

uncertainty over costs makes it problematic to commit to an ICT-based project, and to judge the value as against other possible uses of the likely resource

the relationship between use of any new ICT system and professional practice is key, with a need to align with your review's recommendations on frontline practice.

Given the discussions thus far on a national signposting service, and the stage you have reached on your review, you and I have agreed an appropriate way forward. You will consider the key underlying issues, notably:

What do practitioners need to help them to quickly identify children who are the subject of protection plans or who are looked after and who come to the notice of professionals working with them or who are presented for help by parents/carers in local services outside their home areas?

Should any other categories of children be regarded as so vulnerable that practitioners need to identify them quickly, such as those who have been looked after or the subject of child protection plans in the past, or those who have been the subject of section 47 investigations?

How effective are existing measures for supporting mobile vulnerable children, and how might they be improved, including the measures, in place across police and health services?

What new or changed processes or tools, which may include ICT solutions, would help frontline practitioners?

The interactions of 'signposting' with your review, including any possible effects of a new IT system on social work practice

and in the light of that, and of the cost-effectiveness of any ICT solution, what priority should be given to development of the kind of signposting service that has been discussed?

The Department will support your consideration by gathering evidence by a variety of means, including in-depth studies in frontline settings and other forms of stakeholder engagement, and undertaking analysis. There will be no fixed assumption that ContactPoint assets should be re-used. Issues to be considered in this work will include:

a. The use of small-scale pilots with LAs and/or busy A&Es, as well as other ways of gathering information, to clarify the scale and nature of the 'problem', model current and desirable practice and potential aids and solutions.

b. Use made currently of the current missing children notifications system, and how the system could be improved. To include

(i) establishing the purpose of the system, investigating current use, its strengths, and known issues

(ii) collecting feedback from local practitioners and understanding what works/potential barriers

(iii) analysing evidence

(iv) drawing conclusions on how the system could be improved

c. Use made currently of police databases; potential for further use of these systems and the new police national database.

d. And specifically in case an IT solution looks desirable

(i) The nature of any such solution that would offer best value for money

(ii) which professionals should have access, directly or indirectly, and how likely are they to use it and find it useful

(iii) what data should be included, including possible inclusion of school and GP registration data as an aid to signposting

(iv) archiving and exit criteria for data in any IT system

(v) the cost profile and affordability, embodying realistic assumptions about development and operational costs and the implementation date.

I should be grateful if you would participate at the appropriate level in the governance arrangements for this work, together with Sue White and officials who support your review. The Department will not start to develop any detailed documentation required for any ICT project until after a decision is taken to proceed.

I look forward to seeing an update on progress in your January report and a final recommendation in your April report.

Letter from Professor Eileen Munro:

Thank you for your letter dated 8 November confirming the next steps we agreed in consideration of a national signposting service for children known to be at risk. I am happy to incorporate this issue and its implications into my review of child protection in England and welcome your offer of support in gathering evidence to inform my recommendations.

I concur with your view that a national approach to signposting, including any potential case for an ICT-based service, should be shaped by what practitioners need to help them carry out their work to protect children. As you have highlighted, it will be important to give very careful consideration to the criteria for including children on the system and for removing their names. As you have suggested, I will work with Professor Sue White, other members of my reference group and officials working on the review, to consider what practice tools or systems are already in place which could be built upon to meet practitioners' identified needs rather than creating an unnecessary additional system. It goes without saying that the cost-effectiveness of any recommendations will be central to my thinking, particularly with regard to the wider issue my review is addressing of unnecessary bureaucratic demands on social work time.

I would ask in addition that you consider preserving some funding for the national signposting work, in order that any recommendations I am minded to make are, if necessary, supported by available resource.

As you request, I will update you on my progress in January and seek to provide you with a final recommendation in my April report.

Departmental Marketing

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) literature-based, (ii) television-based, (iii) telecommunications-based, (iv) electronic and (v) other campaigns and communications targeted at young people aged 16 to 24 years on (A) employment (B) training opportunities and (C) welfare in the last year for which figures are available. [27129]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* There were no campaigns specifically aimed at 16 to 24-year-olds.

However, the Department did run a campaign in 2009/10 to raise awareness of Connexions Direct among 13 to 19-year-old males and females, at a total cost of £217,559.00.

Departmental Operating Costs

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and each of its non-departmental public bodies spent on administration in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* the latest year for which figures are available. [32322]

Tim Loughton: The Department's spend on administration is set out in the following table:

	Administration costs (£000)
1997/98	247,107
2005/06	240,212
2009/10	184,090

We do not have the information for our non-departmental public bodies as they do not record the costs for administration separately in their financial resource accounts.

2005/06 and 2009/10 figures were taken from the Department's financial resource accounts and 1997/98 figures were taken from the Department's Appropriation Accounts.

The figures are not directly comparable over the stated years due to changes in the Department's responsibilities and the difference in accounting methods used. The 1997 figures were prepared on a cash basis whereas all other figures were prepared using the accruals method of accounting.

Departmental Procurement

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have taken to comply with the guidance of the Office of Government Commerce on promoting skills through public procurement issued in 2009. [31314]

Tim Loughton: The Department and the non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) for which I am responsible have fully adopted the guidance issued by the Office of Government Commerce on promoting skills through public procurement.

Internal guidance has been produced and training workshops have been delivered to all procurement staff in both the Department and NDPBs on practical ways to implement this guidance.

There is a requirement in all contracts for employees to have skills appropriate for the job, and clauses on basic skills and skill development are included when appropriate. A requirement for apprenticeship places in included in our standard terms and conditions, and the number of apprenticeship places secured through contracts is monitored at regular intervals.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* steps he is taking to encourage small businesses to bid for contracts let by his Department and *(b)* recent guidance he has provided to small businesses on bidding for such contracts. [32031]

Tim Loughton: The Department fully complies with the package of support to open up Government procurement to help small and medium-sized enterprises and third sector organisations recently announced by the Cabinet Office.

This includes streamlining the procurement process to remove unnecessary bureaucracy and waste, improving the transparency of public procurement opportunities and ensuring the timely payment by contractors to sub-contractors.

In addition to those measures, my Department already advertises all suitable contracts on the supply2gov website (a website aimed at SMEs), flags up any contract advert placed in the *Official Journal of the European Union* if there may be sub-contracting opportunities for SMEs, uses simplified contractual documentation, encourages innovation through output-based specifications, splitting requirements into smaller lots, encourages the use of consortia, publicises tender documents on Contracts Finder and supports new businesses through flexibility on qualifying documentation, e.g. financial accounts.

Our external website contains guidance on bidding for business which includes how to prepare a tender, tender evaluation, debriefing, departmental model terms and conditions, prompt payment policy and promotes the 'Winning the Contract' online course for small businesses.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Northumberland

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of students in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency and *(b)* Northumberland that will be affected by the ending of the education maintenance allowance scheme. [22932]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), which operates the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 17 November 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ22932:

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The 2010/11 take-up for Northumberland Local Authority area shows that at 31st October 2010 there were 3,059 young people in receipt of EMA.

From 2011/12, Education Maintenance Allowances will be replaced by an enhanced learner support fund that will be administered by schools and colleges themselves, targeting those young people who face a real financial barrier to participation. The number of young people who benefit from these new arrangements will reflect local decisions so it is not possible to judge how many will receive financial support in future.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Foster Care: Easington

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people in *(a)* Easington constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England are (i) foster parents and (ii) registered for fostering. [31726]

Tim Loughton: Ofsted's data set (based on around an 80% return from local authority and independent fostering service providers) estimated that on 31 March 2009 there were 33,008 approved fostering households in England. During 2008-09, there was a net increase of 1,005 households. A fostering household may consist of a single foster carer or a fostering couple.

Data on the number of foster carers with a child in placement are not collected centrally. On 31 March 2010, 47,200 children were looked after in a foster placement (73% of all looked-after children)[1].

Data on the number of fostering households, and on the number of foster carers with a child in placement, are not centrally collected by constituency or by region. Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient placements to meet the needs of the looked-after children in their area.

[1] *Source:*

Statistical First Release for year ending 31 March 2010.

Free Schools

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications his Department has received from *(a)* teachers, *(b)* parents and *(c)* charitable groups wishing to establish a free school. [23044]

Mr Gibb: To date, the Department has received over 180 proposals to set up free schools.

Proposals come from a diverse range of groups. We do not, however, require proposers to categorise themselves as either teachers, parents or charitable groups.

Even if we were to do so, such information would be misleading as these categories are not mutually exclusive.

Health Education: Sex

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 728W, on health education:

sex, and his contribution of 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 973, on funding and schools reform, whether sex and relationships education is *(a)* part of the national curriculum and *(b)* within the scope of the curriculum review. [32350]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* Both primary and secondary schools must deliver the statutory science curriculum, which includes age-appropriate information on human biology; this is part of the national curriculum. In addition, secondary schools are required to provide sex education as part of the basic curriculum, which must include education about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. However, all schools are encouraged to provide a broad programme of sex and relationships education (SRE) through non-statutory personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education.

I refer my hon. Friend to the response given on 30 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 728W, which explains that SRE will not be within scope of the national curriculum review and that we intend to conduct an internal review to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching.

Health Visitors: Finance

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the Government's plans for new funding for Sure Start health visitors proposed in the comprehensive spending review. [26685]

Sarah Teather: Ministers meet regularly to discuss a range of issues. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health and I have had meetings to discuss the Government's commitment to recruit 4,200 new health visitors, and officials in the Department for Education and the Department of Health are working together closely.

Martyn Rose: Big Society Network

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the *(a)* Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families and *(b)* his officials have had (i) discussions and (ii) correspondence with Martyn Rose of the Big Society Network since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [30950]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 15 December 2010]:* On 18 October 2010, Mr Martyn Rose attended a National Citizen Service ministerial steering group to discuss external support for the NCS programme. At the meeting, Mr Rose offered to explore how potential NCS sponsors could be best encouraged to organise any contributions to the NCS programme during the pilot year. An initial proposal was shared with the Department for consideration on 26 November, and the Department has yet to respond.

There is no record of any further written correspondence between Mr Rose and the Department between May 2010 and now.

Tim Loughton and Mr Rose met for dinner on 23 June 2010 and 17 November 2010.

Nursery Schools: Finance

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has for the future funding of nursery education. [27101]

Sarah Teather: Investment in the early years is absolutely critical in supporting child development. In his statement on the outcome of the spending review on 20 October 2010, the Chancellor announced that all three and four-year-olds would continue to receive 15 hours per week of free early education, and that, through an additional investment of £300 million, this would be extended to all disadvantaged two-year-olds by the end of the spending review period.

We are reforming the way in which funding for nursery education is distributed, helping to make the market fairer and more equitable by introducing a locally agreed early years single funding formula (EYSFF), from April 2011, to be applied transparently across schools and the wider early years sector. We will be consulting on the future of school funding, including whether to introduce a national funding formula, in spring 2011. As part of that consultation, we will also seek views on funding early years provision.

Further announcements will be made about funding for other aspects of government support to nurseries shortly as part of wider announcements on local authority funding. This includes the support local authorities provide to providers to drive improvements in quality and secure sufficient child care provision.

The Government also provide support to parents who need to purchase additional child care to enable them to work through subsidies to parents through child tax credit, tax relief on employer supported child care vouchers.

Outdoor Recreational Activities: Disability

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to increase the provision of outdoor recreational activities for disabled young people; and if he will make a statement. [31800]

Tim Loughton: Local authorities are responsible, under the general equality duty contained in the Disability Discrimination Act, to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people, encourage participation by disabled people and take steps to account of disabled people's disabilities in respect of the services that they provide—so in providing such services as outdoor recreational activities, local authorities should be considering the needs of the disabled children who use them.

Over time, the National Citizen Service will give all 16-year-olds the opportunity to take part in a structured programme and develop the skills needed to be active and responsible citizens, mix with people from different backgrounds, get involved and do something positive in their communities. This will include a week-long residential experience where young people will participate in a series of outdoor challenges. We are working closely with pilot providers to ensure that barriers to participation are removed and that young people with disabilities are supported to participate fully.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking as part of his Department's review of personal social health and economic education to improve financial advice and education for young people. [32488]

Tim Loughton: We firmly believe that all young people should benefit from high-quality personal social health and economic (PSHE) education, which includes financial capability. Our aim for the PSHE review is to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching, including giving teachers the flexibility to use their judgment about how best to deliver PSHE education. We will set out more details about the review in due course.

Playgrounds: Capital Investment

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for capital expenditure on children's playgrounds after the end of the Play Pathfinder funding scheme period in 2011. [26635]

Sarah Teather: The Government acknowledge how important it is that children and families have safe, free local places to play and also recognise the benefits these places bring to the wider community more generally.

However, the fiscal position that the Government have inherited means that difficult decisions have to be taken to tackle the deficit. The Department has no plans in the next spending review period to fund a central capital programme dedicated to improving play facilities. It will be for each local authority, with its local partners, to determine its own local priorities.

For the future, the Government want to move control over local expenditure away from the centre so that decisions on what gets built where are taken locally, to make the most of the limited resource available.

One of the big successes of the current play programme has been the involvement of community groups in helping to improve the availability and quality of local play areas, and we want this level of community engagement to continue. This should provide an opportunity for children and young people, committed individuals and local groups to continue to influence the development of play facilities in their areas.

Private Education: Pupil Numbers

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in (i) Reading East constituency and (ii) England attended independent schools in each of the last five years. [29105]

Mr Gibb: The available information is shown in the following table. Since information for independent schools is only collected at school level, it is not possible to give figures for the number of pupils resident in a particular area attending independent schools.

Independent schools[1]: number and percentage of pupils aged 5 to 10 and 11 to 15[2, 3]

Position in January each year 2006 to 2010

	Reading East parliamentary constituency				*England*			
	Pupils aged 5 to 10		*Pupils aged 11 to 15*		*Pupils aged 5 to 10*		*Pupils aged 11 to 15*	
	Number	*Percentage[4]*	*Number*	*Percentage[4]*	*Number*	*Percentage[4]*	*Number*	*Percentage[4]*
2006	540	8.7	1,310	24.9	200,440	5.5	233,820	7.2
2007	500	8.2	1,310	24.9	199,030	5.6	232,620	7.3
2008	490	8.2	1,280	25.2	198,480	5.6	233,710	7.4
2009	450	7.6	1,290	25.6	196,620	5.6	233,970	7.5
2010	490	8.2	1,300	25.7	192,400	5.5	234,110	7.6

[1] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.

[2] Age as at 31 August in previous year (start of academic year).

[3] Information given is the number of pupils attending independent schools in Reading East parliamentary constituency and England, and not those that are resident in the constituency or England.

[4] Number of pupils in independent schools expressed as a percentage of number of pupils in same age group across all schools (excludes dually registered pupils)

Source:
School Census

Pupils: Bullying

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department holds figures on the number of cases of *(a)* attempted suicide and *(b)* suicide among children and young people which are attributed to bullying. [32015]

Tim Loughton: The Office for National Statistics publishes death registration data, which includes data on the number of suicides of children and young people. However, only the medical cause of death is reported, not the reason behind the incident, which is not always known and may be subject to further investigation after the registration of the death. We cannot therefore determine how many deaths registered as suicide are associated with bullying.

Similarly, the national health service records information about the medical cause of a hospital admission through its hospital episode statistics. Information about the reason behind an incident, however, may not be known at the time of this recording, which means all attempted suicides are recorded as an admission due to intentional self-harm. In the 12 months proceeding October 2009, the most recent figures available, 12,279 children and young people aged 0-17 were admitted to hospital in England having self-harmed.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding per school pupil in the maintained sector was in England in each of the last five years. [28965]

Mr Gibb: The available information on funding per school pupil in the maintained sector in England in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

Combined LEA and school based expenditure per pupil from 2004-05 to 2008-09

England	*Expenditure per pupil (£)*
2004-05	4,140
2005-06	4,450
2006-07	4,710
2007-08	5,050
2008-09	5,340

Schools: Inspections

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools received a classification of outstanding in Ofsted reports in *(a)* each constituency in Cumbria, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [28077]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 2 December 2010]*: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her response has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 30 November 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

During the 2008/09 and 2009/10 academic years, maintained school inspections have been carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005. Ofsted records all judgements made by inspectors in section 5 inspections, including the judgement for overall effectiveness of the school.

In 2008/09 and 2009/10 maintained schools inspected under the section 5 framework include nursery, primary, secondary (including academies and city technology colleges), special schools and pupil referral units.

In Cumbria there were 96 maintained school inspections in 2008/09, of which 7 schools inspected were judged outstanding for their overall effectiveness. In 2009/10 there were 104 maintained school inspections, of which 11 schools inspected were judged outstanding for their overall effectiveness. Table A below shows this information by parliamentary constituency.

In the North West government office region there were 1,003 maintained school inspections in 2008/09, of which 216 schools inspected were judged outstanding for their overall effectiveness. In 2009/10 there were 898 maintained school inspections, of which 116 schools inspected were judged outstanding for their overall effectiveness.

In 2008/09 there were 7,065 maintained school inspections in England, of which 1,327 schools inspected were judged outstanding for their overall effectiveness. In 2009/10 there were 6,171 maintained schools inspections, of which 782 schools inspected were judged outstanding for their overall effectiveness.

Ofsted releases the outcomes of maintained school inspections as official statistics three times a year on the website. Statistics covering the outcomes of maintained school inspections carried out during 2009/10 were released on 23 November and can be accessed at:

www.ofsted.gov.uk

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Number of schools in Cumbria, North West and England where the overall effectiveness judgment was found to be outstanding in academic years 2008/09 and 2009/10

	Schools overall effectiveness graded 'outstanding'		*Total inspections*	
	2008/09	*2009/10*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Barrow and Furness	0	3	11	16
Carlisle	0	0	7	13
Copeland	2	2	18	17
Penrith and the Border	1	1	20	25
Westmorland and Lonsdale	1	4	15	17
Workington	3	1	25	16
Cumbria total	7	11	96	104
North West	216	116	1,003	898
England	1,327	782	7,065	[1]6,171

[1] There were 6,172 inspections in the 2009/10 academic year. One primary school is excluded from this analysis because its inspection report is currently withheld from publication.

Schools: Management

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to set upper and lower limits for pupil numbers in free schools; and if he will make a statement. [4808]

Mr Gibb: Free schools, like academies, have the flexibility in making a wide range of decisions. Free schools will have the freedom in deciding the number of pupils in the school. Free schools must have a minimum of five pupils of compulsory school age, the upper limit of pupils in a free school will be dependent on the size of the school.

Sure Start Programme: Disability

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he has taken to refocus Sure Start on improving the life chances of disadvantaged children since the announcement of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. [26614]

Sarah Teather: The comprehensive spending review settlement reflected the Government's commitment to Sure Start. It has been protected in cash terms, including new investment in health visitors. This includes retaining a national network of children's centres with a core universal offer while also ensuring they deliver proven early intervention programmes to support families in the greatest need.

As set out in my Department's business plan, we are:

developing a Sure Start children's centres reform programme, by March 2011;

working with local authorities to develop a plan to increase voluntary and community sector involvement within Sure Start children's centres, improve accountability arrangements, increase the use of evidence-based interventions and introduce greater payment by results by March 2011;

introducing a new early intervention grant to provide local authorities with the funding they need to support Sure Start and other intervention programmes, by June 2011.

Teachers: Qualifications

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of newly-qualified science teachers have *(a)* a degree, *(b)* an upper second class degree or higher, *(c)* a degree in a science subject and *(d)* an upper second class degree or higher in a science subject. [32204]

Tim Loughton: The information requested is not currently held centrally as the data available does not separate newly qualified teachers nor provide information on the class of teachers' degree qualifications.

The most relevant data available in answer to parts *(a)* and *(c)* of the question are taken from the secondary schools curriculum and staffing survey (SSCSS) in 2007[1] and are provided in the following tables. Table 1 gives the numbers and proportions of all science teachers of year groups 7-13 by level of qualification (in any subject). Table 2 gives the numbers and proportions of all science teachers by level of qualification in the subject they taught to year groups 7-13. The same information is provided for maths and English teachers as a comparison.

[1] http://publications.education.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR026.pdf

Table 1: Highest post A-level qualifications[1] held by full-time equivalent secondary school teachers[2] of year groups 7-13 in England 2007

	Highest post A-level qualification in any subject																			
	Degree[3]			*BEd*			*PGCE*			*Cert Ed*			*Other qual*[5]			*No qual.*			*Any post A-level qual*	*No. of teachers*
	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	Thousand
Combined/ General science	61	±	2	6	±	1	15	±	2	1	±	0	2	±	1	16	±	2	84	32.1
Biology[4]	85	±	3	5	±	2	4	±	2	1	±	1	1	±	1	3	±	2	97	8.9
Chemistry[4]	83	±	2	4	±	2	8	±	2	1	±	1	1	±	1	4	±	2	96	8.0
Physics[4]	75	±	5	7	±	3	9	±	4	1	±	1	2	±	2	7	±	3	93	7.3
Other sciences[4]	73	±	6	7	±	2	6	±	1	1	±	1	3	±	2	10	±	6	90	5.0
Mathematics	54	±	2	10	±	1	14	±	2	2	±	1	3	±	1	16	±	2	84	30.8
English	71	±	2	9	±	2	5	±	1	2	±	1	1	±	0	11	±	3	89	32.8
All subjects[2,5]	59	±	2	10	±	2	9	±	1	2	±	1	3	±	1	17	±	2	83	214.3

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] "Other" not included in total percentages.

[6] The confidence intervals provide an indication of the accuracy of the percentage estimate.

Source:

Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2007. Base: 214,270 teachers.

Table 2: Highest post A-level qualifications[1] held by full-time equivalent teachers in the subjects[2] they taught to year groups 7-13 in England 2007

	Highest post A-level qualification in the subject taught																			
	Degree[3]			*BEd*			*PGCE*			*Cert Ed*			*Other qual*			*No qual*			*Any post A-level qual*	*No of teachers*
	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	Thousand
Combined/ General science	58	±	2	5	±	1	15	±	2	1	±	0	2	±	1	19	±	2	81	32.1
Biology[4]	85	±	3	5	±	2	4	±	2	1	±	1	1	±	1	4	±	2	96	8.9
Chemistry[4]	83	±	2	4	±	2	7	±	2	1	±	1	1	±	1	4	±	2	96	8.0
Physics[4]	72	±	4	6	±	2	8	±	3	1	±	1	2	±	1	10	±	3	90	7.3
Other sciences[4]	39	±	5	1	±	1	2	±	1	1	±	1	4	±	2	53	±	5	47	5.0
Mathematics	47	±	2	9	±	1	14	±	2	2	±	1	3	±	1	25	±	2	75	30.8
English	62	±	2	9	±	1	5	±	1	2	±	1	1	±	0	21	±	2	79	32.8

Table 2: Highest post A-level qualifications[1] held by full-time equivalent teachers in the subjects[2] they taught to year groups 7-13 in England 2007

	Highest post A-level qualification in the subject taught																			
	Degree[3]			BEd			PGCE			Cert Ed			Other qual.			No qual.			Any post A-level qual.	No. of teachers
	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	±	CI[6]	%	Thousand
All subjects[4,5]	43	±	1	7	±	0	7	±	0	1	±	0	2	±	0	38	±	1	62	214.3

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] "Other" not included in total percentages.

[6] The confidence intervals provide an indication of the accuracy of the percentage estimate.

Source:

Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2007. Base: 214,270 teachers.

Regarding part *(b)* of the question, the Training and Development Agency (TDA) for Schools holds information on the degree classification of final year trainee teachers who have gained qualified teacher status (QTS). In the academic year 2008/09, 88% of all final year trainees specialising in science who gained QTS via mainstream courses held a 2:2 or above in their first degree, 91% of those who gained QTS via employment based routes held a 2:2 or above. Table 3 provides the numbers and percentages of final year trainees who have gained QTS specialising in science, by classification of their first degree.

Table 3: Postgraduate initial teacher training courses: Final-year trainees who have gained QTS specialising in science by classification of their first degree. Years 2004/05 to 2008/09, Coverage: England

	Mainstream courses									
	Number					Percentage				
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
1st	210	230	230	200	230	10.0	10.1	10.3	9.3	10.7
2:1	900	990	990	960	950	43.1	43.9	43.8	44.3	43.5
2:2	700	780	810	730	740	33.2	34.8	35.8	33.7	33.8
Third	170	140	130	150	140	8.1	6.1	5.9	7.1	6.5
Pass	70	60	50	80	70	3.2	2.7	2.4	3.7	3.1
Total with 2:1 and above	1,110	1,220	1,220	1,160	1,180	53.1	54.0	54.1	53.7	54.2
Total with 2:2 and above	1,810	2,000	2,030	1,890	1,920	86.3	88.7	89.9	87.3	88.0
Unclassified	50	60	40	40	50	2.3	2.5	1.8	1.8	2.4
Total	2,090	2,250	2,250	2,160	2,180	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	Employment based courses									
	Number					Percentage				
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
1st	40	50	50	60	60	10.7	13.0	12.2	15.5	14.4
2:1	160	160	200	160	190	40.1	41.7	48.3	44.8	48.2
2:2	110	120	100	100	110	28.2	30.0	24.4	27.6	28.0
Third	30	30	30	20	20	7.6	6.4	6.5	6.6	4.0
Pass	50	30	40	20	20	13.5	8.7	8.6	5.5	5.3
Total with 2:1 and above	200	220	250	220	250	50.8	54.7	60.5	60.2	62.6
Total with 2:2 and above	310	330	360	320	360	78.9	84.7	84.9	87.8	90.7
Unclassified	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	390	390	420	360	400	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes:

1. Includes final-year trainees who have gained QTS via postgraduate initial teacher training courses.

2. Includes those with UK degree on entry.

3. Selects those trainees specialising in science. 4. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

TDA's Performance Profiles.

In future more complete information will be available centrally from the new school workforce census. The census will collect annual information on the qualifications of all teachers in maintained secondary schools in England, the subjects that they are teaching and an indicator, which will enable us to determine whether they are a newly qualified teacher. The first full collection of the census is currently under way and the findings are due to be published in April 2011.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of newly-qualified mathematics teachers have *(a)* a degree, *(b)* an upper second class degree or higher, *(c)* a degree in mathematics and *(d)* an upper second class degree or higher in mathematics. [32205]

Tim Loughton: The information requested is not currently held centrally as the data available do not separate newly qualified teachers nor provide information on the class of teachers' degree qualifications.

The most relevant data available in answer to parts *(a)* and *(c)* of the question are taken from the secondary schools curriculum and staffing survey (SSCSS) in 2007[1] and is provided in the following tables. Table 1 gives the numbers and proportions of all maths teachers of year groups 7-13 by level of qualification (in any subject). Table 2 gives the numbers and proportions of all maths teachers by level of qualification in the subject they taught to year groups 7-13. The same information is provided for Combined/General Science and English teachers as a comparison.

[1] http://publications.education.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR026.pdf

Table 1: Highest post A-level qualifications[1] [2] held by full-time equivalent secondary school teachers of year groups 7-13 in England 2007

	Highest post A-level qualification in any subject													
	Degree[3]		*BEd*		*PGCE*		*Cert Ed*		*Other qual.*		*No qual.*		*Any post A-level qual (%)*	
	%	*±CI[6]*	*%*	*±CI[6]*	*%*	*±CI[6]*	*%*	*±CI[6]*	*%*	*±CI[6]*	*%*	*±CI[6]*		*No of teachers (thousand)*
Mathematics	54	± 2	10	± 1	14	± 2	2	± 1	3	± 1	16	± 2	84	30.8
Combined/ General science[4]	61	± 2	6	± 1	15	± 2	1	± 0	2	± 1	16	± 2	84	32.1
English	71	± 2	9	± 2	5	± 1	2	± 1	1	± 0	11	± 3	89	32.8
All subjects[3,5]	59	± 2	10	± 2	9	± 1	2	± 1	3	± 1	17	± 2	83	214.3

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

[6] The confidence intervals provide an indication of the accuracy of the percentage estimate.

Source:

Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2007

Base: 214,270 teachers

Table 2: Highest post A-level qualifications[1] held by full-time equivalent teachers in the subjects[2] they taught to year groups 7-13 in England 2007

	Highest post A-level qualification in the subject taught													
	Degree[3]		*BEd*		*PGCE*		*Cert Ed*		*Other qual*		*No qual.*		*Any post A-level qual (%)*	
	%	*±CI[6]*	*%*	*±CI[6]*	*%*	*±CI[6]*	*%*	*±CI[6]*	*%*	*±CI[6]*	*%*	*±CI[6]*		*No of teachers (thousand)*
Mathematics	47	± 2	9	± 1	14	± 2	2	± 1	3	± 1	25	± 2	75	30.8
Combined/ General science[4]	58	± 2	5	± 1	15	± 2	1	± 0	2	± 1	19	± 2	81	32.1
English	62	± 2	9	± 1	5	± 1	2	± 1	1	± 0	21	± 2	79	32.8
All subjects[3,5]	43	± 1	7	± 0	7	± 0	1	± 0	2	± 0	38	± 1	62	214.3

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

[6] The confidence intervals provide an indication of the accuracy of the percentage estimate.

Source:

Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2007

Base: 214,270 teachers

Regarding part *(b)* of the question, the Training and Development Agency (TDA) for Schools holds information on the degree classification of final year trainee teachers who have gained qualified teacher status (QTS). In the academic year 2008/2009, 81% of all final-year trainees specialising in maths who gained QTS via mainstream courses held a 2:2 or above in their first degree. 78% of those who gained QTS via employment based routes held a 2:2 or above. Table 3 provides the numbers and percentages of final-year trainees who have gained QTS specialising in maths, by classification of their first degree.

Postgraduate initial teacher training courses. Final-year trainees who have gained QTS specialising in Maths by classification of their first degree. Years: 2004/05 to 2008/09. Coverage: England

	Mainstream courses									
	Number					Percentage				
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
1st	170	210	190	180	170	12.4	14.9	13.0	14.4	13.1
2:1	460	470	490	440	460	33.3	33.6	34.6	35.9	34.6
2:2	480	440	500	400	470	34.7	31.3	35.1	32.5	35.3
Third	160	160	150	120	110	11.2	11.1	10.7	9.4	8.4
Pass	80	70	60	50	60	6.0	4.9	3.9	3.9	4.8
Total with 2:1 and above	640	680	680	620	630	45.8	48.6	47.6	50.3	47.8
Total with 2:2 and above	1,120	1,110	1,170	1,010	1,090	80.5	79.8	82.7	82.8	83.1
Unclassified	30	60	40	50	50	2.2	4.2	2.6	3.8	3.8
Total	1,390	1,390	1,420	1,220	1,320	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	Employment based courses									
	Number					Percentage				
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
1st	40	50	50	40	50	13.1	16.0	17.7	13.9	15.6
2:1	90	100	90	110	110	32.5	34.9	33.2	37.9	37.1
2:2	80	80	80	80	80	28.8	28.8	27.7	26.8	26.9
Third	30	30	30	20	30	9.9	8.9	9.2	7.5	8.5
Pass	40	30	30	40	30	15.7	9.6	12.2	13.9	11.6
Total with 2:1 and above	130	140	140	150	160	45.6	50.9	50.9	51.8	52.7
Total with 2:2 and above	200	220	210	220	230	74.5	79.7	78.6	78.6	79.6
Unclassified	0	10	0	0	0	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.3
Total	270	280	270	280	290	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes:

1. Includes final-year trainees who have gained QTS via postgraduate initial teacher training courses.
2. Includes those with UK degree on entry.
3. Selects those trainees specialising in Maths
4. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

TDA's Performance Profiles

In future more complete information will be available centrally from the new school workforce census. The census will collect annual information on the qualifications of all teachers in maintained secondary schools in England, the subjects that they are teaching and an indicator, which will enable us to determine whether they are a newly qualified teacher. The first full collection of the census is currently under way and the findings are due to be published in April 2011.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of entrants to Postgraduate Certificate of Education courses had *(a)* a first class degree, *(b)* an upper second class degree, *(c)* a lower second class degree, *(d)* a third class degree and *(e)* lower than a third class degree in the last year for which figures are available. [32206]

Tim Loughton: The number and percentage of first-year trainees on postgraduate initial teacher training (ITT) courses by the classification of their first degree is given in the following table. This information is provided for the latest year for which final data are available.

Proportion of postgraduate trainees in their first year of ITT courses by classification of first degree, year 2008/09

Coverage: England

	Mainstream		Employment based	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Total with 2:1 and above	12,990	60.8	3,070	59.6
Total with 2:2 and above	19,770	92.6	4,670	90.6
1st	1,850	8.6	510	9.9
2:1	11,150	52.2	2,560	49.7
2:2	6,780	31.7	1,590	30.9
3	680	3.2	210	4.1
Pass	460	2.2	280	5.4
Unclassified	440	2.1	•	•

Proportion of postgraduate trainees in their first year of ITT courses by classification of first degree, year 2008/09

Coverage: England

	Mainstream		*Employment based*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Total	21,360	100.0	5,150	100.0

"*" = less than 5 or a rate based on less than 5.

Notes:

1. First-year entrants to post graduate ITT courses. Includes universities and other Higher Education Institutions, SCITT and Open University and employment based routes.
2. Classification of first UK degree only.
3. Unclassified includes cases where degree class was undefined or unknown.
4. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

TDA's Performance Profiles

Teachers: Training

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what training his Department plans to provide to non-specialist primary school teachers in respect of *(a)* physical education and *(b)* after school clubs after April 2011. [25029]

Tim Loughton: The Department confirmed in February 2010 that there will be 18,640 primary initial teacher training places in 2010/11. We are currently considering the position for future years.

All primary trainees must demonstrate that they have met the requirements of the Qualified Teacher Status standards before being awarded that status. Trainees must know and understand the relevant statutory and non-statutory curricula and frameworks for their subjects and curriculum areas, and other relevant information applicable to the age and ability range for which they are trained.

We are committed to improving the quality and status of teaching, which will include improving the quality and rigour of initial teacher training. We also want to establish a strong culture of professional development where schools think actively about how their staff contribute to pupils' achievement and teachers take responsibility for leading their own and others' development by sharing effective practice. Further details on both of these points will be set out in the forthcoming schools White Paper.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what procedure a school wishing to become a training school will be required to follow. [28054]

Mr Gibb: In the White Paper "The Importance of Teaching", we announced our intention to bring together the training school and national teaching school models to create a new national network of teaching schools from September 2011. We will make an announcement about schools which can apply to become teaching schools shortly.

In the meantime, any schools wishing to express an interest in applying for the new designation should register their interest with the national college at:

teachingschoolsenquiries@nationalcollege.org.uk

Teachers: Vacancies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many unfilled teaching vacancies at *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school level there were in (i) Cumbria and (ii) England in each year since 1979. [28076]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 2 December 2010]:* The following table provides the full-time teacher vacancies in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Cumbria local authority and England in each January, 1979 to 2010.

Teacher vacancies in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools. Each January 1979 to 2010. Coverage: Cumbria local authority and England

	Cumbria local authority		*England*	
	Nursery and primary	*Secondary*	*Nursery and primary*	*Secondary*
1979[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1980[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,310
1981[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,060
1982[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,060
1983[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,840
1984[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,830
1985[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,900
1986[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,400
1987[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,510
1988[2]	n/a	n/a	2,400	2,000
1989[2]	n/a	n/a	3,120	2,420
1990[2]	n/a	n/a	3,720	2,780
1991[2]	16	15	3,250	1,980
1992[2]	0	0	1,070	820
1993[2]	2	0	790	550
1994[2]	1	0	760	620
1995[2]	1	1	790	520
1996[2]	2	1	860	590
1997[2]	0	4	1,090	730
1998[2]	1	1	1,390	970
1999[2]	0	2	1,370	940
2000[2]	0	0	1,420	1,250
2001[2]	4	2	2,110	2,590
2002[2]	8	8	1,800	2,450
2003[2]	3	6	1,110	2,050
2004[2]	5	2	790	1,660
2005[2]	1	9	740	4,550
2006[2]	2	5	710	1,340
2007[2]	1	2	660	1,210
2008[2]	3	4	870	1,470
2009[2]	3	8	760	1,310
2010[2]	n/a	n/a	630	830

n/a = Not available

[1] Between 1979 and 1983 vacancies have been included for full-time permanent appointments including appointments for at least one term's duration.

[2] Advertised vacancies for full-time permanent appointments (or appointments of at least one term's duration). Includes vacancies being filled on a temporary basis of less than one term.

Note:

England figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Form 618g

Written Questions: Government Responses

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to Question *(a)* 27202, on the Schools Sports Partnership, tabled on 24 November, *(b)* 27204, on school sports, tabled on 24 November, *(c)* 26598, on the Schools Sports Partnerships, tabled on 22 November and *(d)* 26599 on funding for the Schools Sports Partnership, tabled on 22 November; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply in each case. [30197]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 13 December 2010]:* I apologise for the delay in answering these PQs. PQ replies have been temporarily delayed due to the sharp rise in the quantity of PQs received in this specific policy area and the heavy demand on existing resources to enable the PQs to be processed to meet the deadline. I can confirm that PQ 26599 and 27203 have now been replied to, on 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 859W and 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 92W, respectively. However, 26598 has been withdrawn so we are unable to provide a response to this PQ.

We aim to reply to all outstanding PQs shortly.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to provide a substantive answer to Question 29706, on Questions tabled for answer on a named day, tabled on 6 December 2010 for answer on 9 December 2010. [30914]

Tim Loughton: A response to PQ29706 was issued to the hon. Gentleman on 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 446W.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to provide a substantive answer to question 29707, on questions tabled for named day answer, tabled on 6 December 2010 for named day answer on 9 December 2010. [30946]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 15 December 2010]:* A response to PQ29707 was issued to the hon. Gentleman on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1064W.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to provide a substantive answer to question 29330, on RM, on 2 December 2010 and for named day answer on 7 December 2010. [30948]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 15 December 2010]:* A response to PQ29330 was issued to the hon. Gentleman on 14 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 735W.

Youth Services: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has for future funding for youth centres; and if he will make a statement. [32079]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* The Government have committed £134 million over 2011-13 to complete the myplace programme of capital investment in 69 youth centres. Alongside this, we have given local authorities the freedoms and flexibilities to determine how future funding is best used to meet the needs of their communities and to use their local knowledge to make efficient investments in facilities that can make a real difference to the lives of their young people. This may include making better use of existing buildings such as children's centres and community buildings for youth work at times that suit young people.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 17 January 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Banks: Incentives

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on which occasions he has discussed with the chief executives of *(a)* Royal Bank of Scotland Group, *(b)* Lloyds Banking Group and *(c)* Barclays (i) the bonuses paid to their staff and (ii) their personal bonus since 1 December 2010. [34026]

Mr Prisk: Ministers meet bank executives on a range of issues and it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Banks: Loans

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to establish targets for banks in the area of business support; and if he will make a statement. [33013]

Mr Prisk: We have been working closely with the main UK banks through the British Bankers Association to ensure they deliver the commitments made as part of their response to the Government's Green Paper "Financing a Private Sector Recovery". I welcome the work so far from the banks, particularly the commitment to support a network of mentors for small businesses, the funding of new independent survey of business lending and the £1.5 billion Business Growth Fund for growing small and mid-sized businesses. In addition the coalition agreement stated that Government would consider net lending agreements among other options in order to ensure access to finance for viable businesses. This remains the case.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of loan facilities for small businesses. [33279]

Mr Prisk: SME lending data collected by BIS show that demand for credit remains at historically low levels. However, the large majority of SME applications for finance are successful. The Government continue to monitor the situation closely, and have conversations with both small business representatives and banks on this issue—through channels such as the Small Business Economic Forum.

While continuing to encourage lending to viable SMEs, the Government have agreed lending commitments with RBS and Lloyds which will be in place up until March 2011. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has confirmed that he is currently in discussions with the major banks to ensure that they lend materially and verifiably more than they were planning to the businesses of Britain—especially the small businesses—so that they can grow and create jobs this year.

In addition, over £1.3 billion of loans have been offered to SMEs through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, which has been extended to 2014-15, with £600 million available this year.

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider in his review of banking in the UK the effect on lending availability in the Northern Ireland market of *(a)* the restricted number of banking providers and *(b)* the effects on that market of the situation of banks operating in the market which are headquartered in the Republic of Ireland. [33702]

Mr Prisk: The Government have set up the Independent Commission on Banking to review the structure of the UK banking sector and address financial stability and competition. The commission is due to present a final report of independent recommendations to the Government in September.

We need to see more competition in the banking sector and foster greater choice. Specifically, the OFT's recent review of barriers to entry, exit and expansion in retail banking found that

> "brand loyalty to incumbent national brands in Scotland and Northern Ireland may be greater than elsewhere in the UK"[1].

The independent commission will take into account the findings of previous investigations into competition in markets for financial services, including the OFT report mentioned above.

We are in discussions with the banks to see if we can reach an agreement whereby banks treat customers fairly, and commit to lend materially and verifiably more than they were planning to the businesses of Britain—especially small businesses, across all the regions—so that they can grow and create jobs.

The effects on the market specifically relating to banks headquartered in the Republic of Ireland are not within the scope of the terms of reference established last summer by the Independent Commission on Banking. However, these terms of reference state that the commission will formulate policy recommendations with a view

> "reducing systemic risk in the banking sector, exploring the risk posed by banks of different size, scale and function".

The Government will continue to closely monitor the situation in Ireland inline with the action and assistance package which was announced by the Chancellor last November.

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[1] The Competition Commission also carried out a market investigation into Personal Current Accounts in Northern Ireland in 2007.

Business: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of women entrepreneurs in the south-east. [33888]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government are committed to making this decade the most entrepreneurial and dynamic in our history.

We believe that aspiration needs to be raised amongst women to ensure that they see starting a business as a viable career option. This will best be achieved longer term by embedding enterprise awareness in mainstream education.

The Government are also currently reforming the way in which start-ups and existing businesses access the support and information that they need. We are establishing a modern, streamlined and efficient system of providing information and guidance to all.

More information on the Government's position is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/enterprise/docs/b/11-515-bigger-better-business-helping-small-firms.pdf

Business: Internet

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to facilitate the growth of small and medium-sized businesses which are dependent on the internet for their sales growth. [32990]

Mr Prisk: As part of the transformational ICT pilot programme, BIS has been testing a number of business support options in different regions to identify and address issues that deter SMEs from adopting digital technology and hence fail to benefit from the productivity and competitiveness benefits it offers.

As a result, we have identified a need to provide tools to up-skill SMEs and enable them to be "intelligent customers". We are now looking into the scope for developing a number of tools, such as a business IT guide, training modules and a diagnostic tool to be delivered nationally online to encourage SMEs to integrate the web and associated internet e-commerce activities across all parts of their business.

There are also a number of private initiatives to help SMEs, including Google's 'Getting British Business Online'. This collaboration between Google, Enterprise UK, BT, and e-skills UK, with the support of this Department, aims to help small businesses create their first website and understand the opportunities offered by the internet. Over 100,000 UK organisations have already been helped to set up their first website easily and for free. The initiative includes help for businesses on how to market on the web and use search engine optimisation to increase the number of customer visits to their website.

More generally, we are focusing our resources on improving small business performance and growth by investing in a universal service for all businesses, including those operating online. The new service will be delivered via the web and a contact centre, and changes include modernising the provision of online information so web-connected businesses can access what they need, when they need it.

Business: Regulation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to exempt small businesses from employment regulations. [33430]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is leading and co-ordinating a long-term project across Whitehall looking at all areas of employment legislation in all the relevant Departments to ensure that employment laws provide the flexibility that businesses need to grow without compromising fairness to employees. I am mindful that small firms can experience difficulty in understanding and complying with employment legislation and the review will certainly consider such issues.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to amend employment laws affecting the smallest companies. [33727]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is leading and co-ordinating a long-term project across Whitehall looking at all areas of employment legislation in all the relevant Departments. I am mindful that small firms can experience difficulty in complying with employment legislation and the review will certainly consider such issues.

EU Law

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what legal advice his Department has sought on the routine copying out of EU directives directly into UK law; whether this advice differs from previous legal advice obtained from within Government resources; and if he will make a statement. [32573]

Mr Prisk: As a matter of routine, this Department is able to draw on legal advice as and when necessary. Details of any advice provided are confidential and attract Legal Professional Privilege.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which organisations he consulted on his proposal to adopt as routine the practice of copying out the text of EU directives as a means of implementing them in UK law. [32574]

Mr Prisk: Under its Guiding Principles for EU legislation, the Government will use copy out for transposition where it is available, except where doing so would adversely affect UK interests. This will help implement the coalition commitment to end 'gold-plating' of EU rules, so that British businesses are not disadvantaged relative to their European competitors.

Export Credit Guarantees: Sudan

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in respect of what projects in Sudan supported by the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) in the last 30 years debt is owed to the ECGD. [33178]

Mr Prisk: Sudan defaulted on its external debts in the late 1970s and ECGD has no record of providing support for any projects since then.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* interest and *(b)* charges are added to the debt owed by Sudan to the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [33213]

Mr Prisk: Sudan's external debts were rescheduled under four bilateral debt agreements between 1979 and 1984. No payments have been received since May 1984. The total interest that has accrued up to 31 December 2010 on the defaulted amount of £173 million is £491 million.

Sudan is a heavily indebted poor country (HIPC) and it is the Government's policy not to seek payment of debts owed by HIPCs.

Exports: Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount generated by UK higher education institutions in export earnings *(a)* in total, *(b)* by each higher education institution as a proportion of the total and *(c)* in total as a proportion of UK export earnings in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [33779]

Mr Willetts: Universities UK have estimated the gross value of exports earnings by UK higher education institutions (HEIs) to be £2.7 billion in 1999/2000, £3.6 billion in 2003/04 and £5.3 billion in 2007/08.

As a proportion of UK export earnings, these represent 1.0% in 1990/00, 1.2% in 2003/04 and 1.5% in 2007/08 of the total.

Estimates for each HEI are not available.

It should be noted that estimates of HE exports from Universities UK are not wholly consistent with total UK exports which are from official ONS statistics. When estimating the approximate UK shares, no adjustments have been made to account for methodological differences in the two sources.

Graduates

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that graduates have both practical and academic skills. [33271]

Mr Willetts: Close contact between employers and the higher education sector is crucial to ensuring that graduates gain the skills needed to enter their chosen fields within industry. For example, work experience opportunities provided by employers enable graduates to use their academic knowledge as well as gain practical and real life skills in a working environment.

To promote this activity further, last summer the coalition asked all universities to introduce employability statements reflecting the importance of helping graduates ready for the world of work. We intend to build further on this work in forthcoming higher education White Paper.

Graduates: Disadvantaged

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many postgraduate research students in the UK who were British citizens received free school meals *(a)* in total, *(b)* as a proportion of the total number of British postgraduate research students in the UK, *(c)* in each higher education institution (i) in total and (ii) as a proportion of the total number of British postgraduate research students at each institution, *(d)* by subject (i) in total and (ii) as a proportion of the total number of British postgraduate research students of each subject and *(e)* by institution by subject (i) in total and (ii) as a proportion of that total; and if he will make a statement. [33780]

Mr Willetts: The data we hold only allow us to track the progression of school pupils to age 19. At this age, those individuals who have progressed to UK HE are unlikely to have reached postgraduate study and there were none in the latest data for 2007/08. There is no information giving a breakdown of postgraduate students by eligibility for free school meals when they were younger.

Graduates: Training

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of introducing a training wage for interns; and if he will make a statement. [33470]

Mr Davey: Government considered the proposal to introduce a training wage for interns mirroring the minimum wage rate for apprentices, but decided not to implement it.

We recognise the importance of ensuring that those interns who are eligible to be paid receive at least the appropriate NMW rate. We are working to update our guidance on the payment of work experience and interns to ensure that individuals and employers are clear about their rights and responsibilities, as well as ensuring that enforcement continues to be effective.

Internships have no legal definition and rarely result in a qualification. In this they differ from apprenticeships which are formal programmes of learning that result in recognised qualifications. It is much more difficult to work out who is genuinely an intern in different organisations and to make the case that interns are significantly different from other workers. The proposal for an interns' training wage does not fully acknowledge that some interns are already entitled to a minimum wage.

Green Investment Bank

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to his answer of 9 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 297-98W, on the Green Investment Bank, what asset sales the Government is considering to provide funding for the proposed Green Investment Bank. [33363]

Mr Prisk: The Government have committed to using proceeds from some asset sales to complement the funding of £1 billion from departmental budgets for the Green Investment Bank (GIB), as set out in the spending review statement. We have not reached firm decisions about which asset sales will provide proceeds for the GIB.

I am unable to provide commercially sensitive information on individual asset sales, including our expectations on the size of proceeds. The Government will be making further announcements on its assets sales programme in due course.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* governance and *(b)* management structures for the operation of the Green Investment Bank he plans to establish. [33417]

Mr Prisk: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The governance mechanisms and business model will depend on the final design of the Green Investment Bank (GIB). The precise nature of the GIB is subject to further design and testing work with the proposals being evaluated for effectiveness, fiscal affordability and transparency.

(b) The GIB will make its investment decisions independent from political control and on a commercial basis and employ private sector skills and expertise.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria the Green Investment Bank will use for the allocation of funding to projects. [33418]

Mr Prisk: The Green Investment Bank's governance mechanisms and business model will depend on its final design. A framework will be developed in accordance with how funding allocations will be made, whilst leaving the GIB free from day-to-day ministerial interference.

The GIB's investment mandate will be to deliver the Government's ambitions in economic growth; facilitate the transition to a green economy and support the UK's industrial transformation. All GIB investments will be further guided by the Government's tests of effectiveness, affordability and transparency.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what arrangements he plans to make to fund the Green Investment Bank; and from which of his Department's budgets its funding will be drawn. [33425]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the spending review statement. The Green Investment Bank (GIB) has a specific departmental expenditure limit of £1 billion, for spend in 2013-14. This funding is outside of any Department's own allocation.

Additionally to the £1 billion, the GIB will also have significant funding from the proceeds of Government asset sales.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what processes the proposed Green Investment Bank will use to *(a)* evaluate applications for funding and *(b)* allocate funds. [33511]

Mr Prisk: The Green Investment Bank will be run on a commercial basis, employing appropriate private sector skills and expertise and free from ministerial interference in its day-to-day operations.

Growth Review

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the Growth Review to report; and if he will make a statement. [34241]

Mr Prisk: The first phase of the Growth Review will report by Budget 2011.

Herbal Medicine: EU Law

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Health and *(b)* European Commission on the effects on businesses of the implementation of the Traditional Herbal Medicines Directive. [33719]

Mr Davey: None.

Higher Education: Admissions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people from the four lowest socio-economic classes in Richmond Park constituency enrolled in UK higher education institutions in the latest period for which figures are available. [32969]

Mr Willetts: The latest available socio-economic information on young full-time undergraduate entrants from Richmond Park constituency to UK higher education institutions is shown in the following table. Figures have been taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record and are provided for the 2009/10 academic year. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from HESA in January 2012. Socio-economic class information is not available for part-time entrants to higher education.

Young[1] full-time undergraduate entrants from Richmond Park constituency[2] by socio-economic classification[3], UK higher education institutions

	Academic year 2009/10
Socio-economic classification	*Entrants*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	280
Lower managerial and professional occupations	240
Intermediate occupations	85
Total higher	605
Small employers and own account workers	55
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	15
Semi-routine occupations	45
Routine occupations	10
Total lower	120
Missing[4]	145

[1] Refers to entrants under the age of 21.

[2] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[3] The socio-economic classification of young entrants is based on the classification of their parents.

[4] Covers entrants whose socio-economic classification was never worked and long-term unemployed, missing or not classified; not classified includes occupations which were inadequately described, not classifiable or unstated.

Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people normally resident in *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the Wirral borough council area, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* England applied to attend university to start in academic year (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [33861]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following tables and is provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and therefore mostly covers full-time undergraduate study.

Data for 2010/11 represent applicants who had applied by 13 October 2010; end of year data will be available from 20 January 2011.

Applicants to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS 2010/11

Location	*Applicants*
Wallasey constituency	891
Wirral local authority	3,253
North West	68,611
England	494,542

Source:
UCAS

Data for 2011/12 represent applicants who had applied by 20 December 2010. Applicants can apply via the main scheme up until the end of June and through clearing after this. UCAS will release the next set of data on applicants for 2011/12 on 31 January 2011.

Applicants to full time undergraduate courses via UCAS 2011/12

Location	*Applicants*
Wallasey constituency	451
Wirral local authority	1,911
North West	38,223
England	268,117

Source:
UCAS

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of those who applied to university from *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the Wirral borough council area, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* England did not gain a university place in (i) academic year 2010-11 and (ii) each of the previous five academic years. [33862]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table and is provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and therefore mostly covers full-time undergraduate study.

Applicants who were not accepted for entry can include:

individuals who did not receive any offer; individuals who received an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decided not to go to university;

individuals who received a conditional offer and failed to meet the specific conditions (e.g. they did not achieve certain grades); and

individuals who decided to withdraw from the UCAS system.

Proportion of applicants to courses at UK institutions via UCAS who were unplaced 2006/07 to 2010/11

					Percentage
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010[1]*
Wallasey constituency	15.8	17.2	16.5	22.5	29.3
Wirral local authority	16.4	15.7	14.5	19.9	27.6
North-west	17.4	17.6	17.0	19.9	26.1
England	19.2	19.2	19.1	21.9	27.4

Source:
UCAS.

Data for 2010/11 represent applicants who apply for entry in 2010/11 at 13 October 2010; end of year data will be available from 20 January 2011.

All other years represent final end of year data.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful applicants to university from (i) Wallasey constituency, (ii) the Wirral borough council area, (iii) the North West and (iv) England were from each socio-economic background in each of the last five years. [33863]

Mr Willetts: Data by socio-economic background are not available for each of the years requested. Therefore, applicants are split by Participation Of Local AReas (POLAR) quintiles.

Applicants who were not accepted for entry can include:

individuals who did not receive any offer; individuals who received an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decided not to go to university;

individuals who received a conditional offer and failed to meet the specific conditions (e.g. they did not achieve certain grades); and

individuals who decided to withdraw from the UCAS system.

Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in UK institutions via UCAS by area background, 2006/07 to 2010/11

Successful applicants	*Area background*	*POLAR2 quintile*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Wallasey constituency	Disadvantaged		300	304	358	375	356
	Other		232	254	269	277	274
Total			532	558	627	652	630
Wirral local authority	Disadvantaged		622	681	798	830	771
	Other		1,432	1,506	1,670	1,662	1,583
Total			2,054	2,187	2,468	2,492	2,354
North-west	Disadvantaged	1	8,129	8,898	10,408	11,234	11,342
		2	7,297	7,554	8,849	9,793	9,223
	Other	3	8,612	9,030	10,174	10,899	10,775
		4	8,529	8,905	9,474	10,346	9,969
		5	7,250	7,712	8,299	8,653	8,658
			765	736	1,160	875	770

Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in UK institutions via UCAS by area background, 2006/07 to 2010/11

Successful applicants	*Area background*	*POLAR2 quintile*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*[1]
Total		—	40,582	42,835	48,364	51,800	50,737
England	Disadvantaged	1	37,187	40,369	47,260	51,245	51,031
		2	47,944	50,860	57,772	61,751	61,427
	Other	3	56,708	60,511	67,378	71,903	71,580
		4	69,329	73,595	79,765	84,091	83,701
		5	73,445	77,537	83,769	86,553	86,904
		[2]—	4,616	4,087	7,664	4,693	4,376
Total		—	289,229	306,959	343,608	360,236	359,019

[1] Provisional.
[2] Unknown.

Unplaced applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in UK institutions via UCAS by area background, 2006/07 to 2010/11

Unplaced applicants	*Area background*	*POLAR2 quintile*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*[1]
Wallasey constituency	Disadvantaged	—	59	69	67	121	173
	Other	—	41	47	57	68	88
Total		—	100	116	124	189	261
Wirral local authority	Disadvantaged	—	142	184	151	260	363
	Other	—	260	222	269	358	536
Total			402	406	420	618	899
North-west	Disadvantaged	1	2,031	2,311	2,482	3,303	4,706
		2	1,646	1,749	1,931	2,559	3,615
	Other	3	1,813	1,878	2,007	2,605	3,602
		4	1,604	1,742	1,880	2,328	3,246
		5	1,314	1,304	1,391	1,822	2,419
		[2]—	135	135	244	227	286
Total		—	8,543	9,119	9,935	12,844	17,874
England	Disadvantaged	1	9,791	10,738	12,429	15,986	22,937
		2	11,919	12,655	14,460	17,947	25,154
	Other	3	13,288	14,054	15,200	19,443	25,974
		4	15,299	16,152	17,250	21,733	28,811
		5	17,619	18,549	19,749	24,683	30,799
		[2]—	922	970	1,900	1,393	1,848
Total		—	68,838	73,118	80,988	101,185	135,523

[1] Provisional.
[2] Unknown.

Numbers for successful and unsuccessful applicants are too small to be split into five quintiles for constituency and local authority level. Therefore the data are split into those from areas classified as 'disadvantaged' or 'other'.

For the purposes of their funding allocations, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) treat entrants from the most disadvantaged 40% of neighbourhoods as 'disadvantaged':

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/widen/fund/

HEFCE uses two different groupings of areas to define disadvantage which are based on the historic levels of participation or qualification in higher education by the local population: one based on the participation rates of young (19 and under) people in HE (which is used by HEFCE when looking at young full-time entrants); and one based on the proportion of adults in the area who hold HE qualifications (which is used by HEFCE when looking at part-time and mature full-time entrants). Because this table includes applicants and accepted applicants of all ages disadvantage is defined by the HE qualified adults measure.

Data for 2010/11 represent applicants who apply for entry in 2010/11 at 13 October 2010; end of year data will be available from 20 January 2011.

All other years represent final end of year data.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the Higher Education Funding Council for England to confirm its next funding allocation to universities; and if he will make a statement. [33777]

Mr Willetts: As in previous years the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) will announce its provisional allocations to institutions for the next academic year (2011/12) in March this year, with final allocations in July.

Innovation: Regional Development Agencies

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department has provided to centres of innovation that are dependent on funding from the regional development agencies (RDAs) on whether they will remain as going concerns following the closure of RDAs. [33766]

Mr Willetts: The Department has not provided any guidance to centres of innovation dependent on funding from the regional development agencies. We are however considering the future of these centres in the context of existing RDA assets and liabilities.

Furthermore, some of these centres may well succeed in their bids for future funding under the process of establishing the elite network of technology and innovation centres that is being run by the Technology Strategy Board.

Innovation: Research

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many expressions of interest his Department has received from organisations wishing to establish a technology and innovation centre to date. [33764]

Mr Willetts: The network of technology and innovation centres will be established and overseen by the Technology Strategy Board which recently published a prospectus setting out the process for establishing these.

Formal expressions of interest in forming all or part of the high value manufacturing centre and requests for suggestions and to register an interest within the broad thematic areas of energy and resource efficiency, transport systems, healthcare, ICT, electronics, photonics and electrical systems—are being gathered by the Technology Strategy Board as part of the process outlined in the prospectus.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which areas in the North East are not proposed to be covered by a local enterprise partnership; and what assessment he has made of the effect on such areas of exclusion from such partnerships. [33338]

Mr Prisk: All areas of the North East will be covered by a local enterprise partnership. Both the Tees Valley and the North Eastern partnerships have been asked to set up their boards.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has made a forecast of the number of local enterprise partnerships that it expects to be established in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* England; and if he will make a statement. [33508]

Mr Prisk: In the North East there are two local enterprise partnerships (LEPs.) Across England 28 local enterprise partnerships have met the Government's expectations to date and have been asked to put their governance arrangements in place. Other partnerships continue to develop their proposals so they can be in a similar position.

The development of local enterprise partnerships is a bottom up process. No estimate has been made on the optimal number of LEPs to be established. We wish to enable partnerships to better reflect the natural economic geography of the areas they serve and hence to cover real functional economic and travel-to-work areas. In addition, we would expect that partnerships to be of sufficient size to be able to have a strategic oversight of the area covered.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department made of the *(a)* reflection of a functional economic area and *(b)* governance arrangements in the successful second proposal for a local enterprise partnership to cover local authority areas in the North East. [34577]

Mr Prisk: The north-eastern local enterprise partnership proposal was assessed against the criteria as set out in the Local Growth White Paper. With regard to geography the Government concluded that the proposal represented a functional economic area that was supported by business and was sufficiently strategic.

No assessment of the partnership's governance arrangements has been made yet. The partnership has been asked to form its board and inform Ministers when this is done. Ministers will then assess the board to ensure it also meets Government expectations regarding membership.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to set out the process to be followed for the transition from the regional development agency to two local enterprise partnerships in the North East; and if he will make a statement. [34578]

Mr Prisk: Our proposals for restructuring the delivery landscape for economic development are set out in the Local Growth White Paper.

The two local enterprise partnerships which have been invited to form their boards in the north-east are already working, alongside the North East Economic Partnership, to develop proposals which will best serve the natural economic geography of their areas.

They will be focusing on key issues of importance to support rebalancing the economy of the north-east. These issues include: transition to a low carbon economy, supporting enterprise and private sector business growth, building on key economic strengths, improving skills and performance, and strengthening transport connectivity and infrastructure.

Manpower: Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which staff of his Department have been transferred to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport as a result of the transfer of responsibility for media and telecommunications competition policy; and whether such transfers are *(a)* on secondment and *(b)* permanent. [33765]

Mr Vaizey: The details of which work will be transferred from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have been agreed and these Departments are now considering which staff will move and on what terms. No decisions have been made yet about whether the transfers will be permanent or on secondment.

Metals: Imports

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the level of security of supply of rare earth metals required by industry. [33726]

Mr Prisk: This Department is currently monitoring the various issues across Government surrounding rare earth metals, and discussing concerns with industry as they arise.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's policy is on support for research and development in the hybrid motor vehicle industry in the comprehensive spending review period; [33632]

Mr Prisk: To meet UK carbon targets, the road transport sector needs to be decarbonised and a key element will be the move to ultra-low carbon vehicles, including electric and plug-in hybrid. The spending review announced provision of in excess of £400 million over the lifetime of this Parliament to support the decarbonisation of road transport. This support will include:

A commitment to a national recharging infrastructure for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, informed by the eight Plugged-In Places (PIP) pilot projects which will deliver approximately 8,000 charging points, between 2010-13;

The Plug-In Car Grant (PICG) which was successfully launched on 1 January 2011. The PICG promotes consumer uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles by providing 25% of the cost of the car up to a cap of £5,000 to both private and business purchasers of eligible cars (which include the Toyota Prius plug-in hybrid);

The Technology Strategy Board's (TSB) core budget for the upcoming spending review period has yet to be allocated and until such a time it will not be possible for the TSB to specify the level of funding that it is likely to allocate towards the development of Low Carbon Vehicle technology. The TSB has been working in close partnership with this Department, the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to support Low Carbon Vehicle Research and Development (R and D) under a range of themes—including hybrid vehicle technology—prioritised by an industry-led steering group and informed by the New Automotive Innovation and Growth Team Technology Roadmap and Automotive Council findings. Funding is not, however, pre-allocated to specific themes, is subject to a competitive process and success will depend on the quality of the proposals submitted.

The projected R and D spend over the period 1 April 2011-31 March 2015 by the EPSRC in support of the hybrid motor vehicle industry is shown in the following table (based on current grants only).

Financial year	*EPSRC spend on hybrid motor vehicle research (£)*
2011-12	8,115,823.84
2012-13	4,065,194.30
2013-14	2,369,970.74
2014-15	1,312,166.87
Total	15,863,155.75

The DfT funded Low Carbon Vehicle Public Procurement programme has provided 200 all-electric and hybrid vans into public sector fleets. The value of this has been £6 million in the financial year 2010-11, and will be £1 million in 2011-12.

DfT pays a bus subsidy incentive, at a rate of 6 pence per kilometre, to bus operators in England who use low carbon buses (including hybrid buses) on their local bus network.

New Businesses

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Government are taking to encourage the establishment and growth of new small businesses. [33724]

Mr Prisk: The Government are encouraging the establishment and growth of new small businesses by:

Launching the new Enterprise Allowance to help the unemployed become self-employed;

Revamping the:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

website which will include a dedicated "start-up hub" bringing into one place the information that people need when thinking of starting or are running a new business;

Establishing a network of at least 40,000 experienced business mentors offering practical advice to existing businesses and people who want to start a business;

Encouraging local authorities to work with the private sector to create Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs) to create the right conditions for small firms to grow;

Refocusing the range of Solutions for Business products so that they are better focussed on helping firms grow;

Investing over £200 million in a national network of elite Technology and Innovation Centres to support the development and commercialisation of new technologies by UK businesses; and

Establishing a new Business Coaching for Growth Programme to enable those new small businesses with high growth potential to realise their potential.

One NorthEast

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the abolition of One NorthEast on businesses in the North East. [34601]

Mr Prisk: An assessment of the impact of the abolition of One NorthEast will be made as part of the process surrounding the Public Bodies Bill.

Post Offices

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what additional public sector services he expects to be delivered through the Post Office branch network by 2015. [33344]

Mr Prisk: The Post Office is already a trusted partner to the public sector, delivering a wide range of services for both central and local government. But the wide distribution and unparalleled national coverage of the Post Office network makes it ideally suited to go further and act as a front office for Government. This would see the Post Office as the natural place to complete face-to-face transactions, including those that support the delivery of online services, such as identity verification, as well as having a role in supporting people to use online services. More detail can be found in the policy statement 'Securing the Post office Network in the Digital Age', published on 9 November 2010, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support the Post Office network. [33628]

Mr Davey: We set out our policy towards the Post Office network in the policy statement 'Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age', published on 9 November, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. We will be providing £1.34 billion of funding for the Post Office over the next four years, enabling the maintenance and modernisation of the nationwide network of around 11,500 branches and the development of new revenue streams. There will be no programme of post office closures under this Government.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* reviewed when taking the decision not to proceed with the creation of a Post bank. [33343]

Mr Prisk: We have looked carefully at the different options for providing financial services through the Post Office network. The three main approaches we focused on were the Post Office continuing to expand into financial services under its existing arrangements, the Post Office working with a different banking partner, and Government creating a state-backed Post Bank. In coming to our conclusion we reviewed relevant publicly available documents, studied international comparisons and engaged with stakeholders, including supporters of a state-backed Post Bank.

Post Offices: Closures

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post offices were *(a)* closed, *(b)* under temporary closure and *(c)* operated by temporary staff since May 2010; and what estimate he has made of the likely number of post office closures in 2011. [33824]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of the Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Postal Services: Fees and Charges

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to ensure that no geographical zonal pricing for Royal Mail services results from implementation of the provisions of the Postal Services Bill. [33517]

Mr Davey: The Postal Services Bill clearly sets out the minimum requirements of a universal postal service and this includes the delivery of a universal service at affordable prices determined in accordance with a public tariff that is uniform throughout the United Kingdom.

It is the responsibility of the regulator, Postcomm (or Ofcom once regulatory responsibility is transferred to them under the Bill) to consider any requests by Royal Mail to operate services on a zonal basis and their considerations would obviously include any impact on customers affected by any such proposed change. And as is currently the case, any such requests would also be subject to consultation. Any universal service products must be provided at a uniform rate across the UK.

Royal Mail do of course already operate zonal pricing for some 'access' products for bulk mail products. These products are outside of the universal service so there is no requirement for a uniform rate.

Regional Growth Fund

James Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications have been received for round 1 of bids to the Regional Growth Fund to date. [33630]

Mr Prisk: To date four bids have been received. It is typical in any competitive bidding process for applications to be received at the last minute, so we expect bids for the first round of funding to reach us nearer to the 21 January deadline.

Research: Overseas Students

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many postgraduate research students in the UK were from outside the UK *(a)* in each of the last 10 years by (i) number and (ii) proportion of the total, *(b)* by subject in each of the last 10 years by (i) number and (ii) proportion of the total; and *(c)* how much they paid for their course in each of the last 10 years by (i) number and (ii) proportion of the total according to fee bands (A) £0 to £5,000, (B) £5,001 to £10,000, (C) £10,001 to £15,000, (D) £15,001 to £20,000, (E) £20,001 to £25,000 and (F) over £25,000; and if he will make a statement. [33801]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) regarding overseas postgraduate research enrolments is shown in tables 1 and 2. Due to a change in both subject classification and the way in which students were assigned to a subject of study in 2002/03, earlier figures are not comparable. For this reason, figures for 2000/01 and 2001/02 are provided in table 1 and later years in table 2. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will be available in January 2012.

The Department does not collect data on the amount higher education institutions (HEIs) charge postgraduate research students in fees.

Table 1: Overseas[1] postgraduate research enrolments by subject of study. UK higher education institutions. Academic years 2000/01 to 2001/02

	2000/01		*2001/02*	
Subject of study	*Number*	*Percentage of all enrolments*	*Number*	*Percentage of all enrolments*
Medicine and dentistry	1,340	19	1,405	20
Subjects allied to medicine	995	23	1,075	23
Biological sciences	2,330	24	2,415	25
Veterinary science	95	27	95	27
Agriculture and related subjects	540	46	505	45
Physical sciences	2,775	29	2,870	30
Mathematical sciences	705	41	735	41
Computer science	1,315	46	1,490	47
Engineering and technology	5,645	50	5,670	51
Architecture, building and planning	630	45	695	47
Social, economic and political studies	3,595	43	3,725	44
Law	740	51	760	53
Business and administrative studies	1,835	45	2,000	47
Librarianship and information science	205	37	210	37
Languages	2,055	40	2,075	41
Humanities	1,945	33	1,995	32
Creative arts and design	610	27	705	29
Education	1,990	34	2,010	35
Combined/ Invalid code supplied	420	30	475	31
Total	29,770	35	30,915	36

[1] Covers EU and non-EU domiciled enrolments.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 2: Overseas[1] postgraduate research enrolments by subject of study. UK higher education institutions. Academic years 2002/03 to 2009/10

	2002/03		*2003/04*		*2004/05*		*2005/06*	
Subject of study	*Number*	*Percentage of all enrolments*	*Number*	*Percentage of all enrolments*	*Number*	*Percentage of all enrolments*	*Number*	*Percentage of all enrolments*
Medicine and dentistry	1,490	21	1,620	23	1,755	25	1,910	26
Subjects allied to medicine	1,185	24	1,280	26	1,335	26	1,390	27
Biological sciences	2,520	25	2,795	27	2,930	28	3,015	29
Veterinary science	100	28	105	30	100	29	105	27
Agriculture and related subjects	500	47	430	46	400	47	350	49
Physical sciences	2,880	30	2,905	31	3,000	32	3,240	34
Mathematical sciences	840	41	845	41	900	42	980	45
Computer science	1,765	49	1,985	51	2,230	54	2,235	55
Engineering and technology	5,975	53	6,205	55	6,345	57	6,495	57
Architecture, building and planning	800	52	860	53	870	55	870	55
Social studies	3,585	47	4,015	50	4,250	52	4,055	50
Law	1,160	58	920	55	990	58	935	58
Business and administrative studies	2,235	49	2,340	52	2,555	55	2,605	56
Mass communications and documentation	255	37	280	38	325	45	365	48
Languages	2,190	41	2,325	43	2,355	44	2,290	43
Historical and philosophical studies	2,025	32	2,120	33	2,185	34	2,170	34
Creative arts and. design	930	32	775	31	820	32	825	32
Education	2,130	37	2,305	39	2,320	39	2,230	38
Combined	30	43	50	56	25	27	140	33
All subjects	32,590	38	34,150	39	35,695	41	36,210	41

	2006/07		2007/08		2008/09		2009/10	
Subject of study	*Number*	*Percentage of all enrolments*	*Number*	*Percentage of all enrolments*	*Number*	*Percentage of all enrolments*	*Number*	*Percentage of all enrolments*
Medicine and dentistry	2,150	28	2,335	29	2,260	30	2,375	30
Subjects allied to medicine	1,560	29	1,845	33	1,900	33	2,010	32
Biological sciences	3,370	31	3,460	32	3,795	32	3,800	32
Veterinary science	100	24	90	24	90	26	70	22
Agriculture and related subjects	315	54	380	53	370	54	380	53
Physical sciences	3,530	36	3,875	37	3,850	37	3,840	36
Mathematical sciences	1,100	47	1,125	49	1,055	48	1,095	49
Computer science	2,370	57	2,505	57	2,445	57	2,415	56
Engineering and technology	6,645	57	6,880	59	6,890	59	7,160	57
Architecture, building and planning	885	56	825	57	815	55	890	55
Social studies	4,085	50	4,350	51	4,350	50	4,470	50
Law	990	59	1,040	59	1,095	59	1,155	57
Business and administrative studies	2,725	57	2,950	58	3,085	59	3,290	57
Mass communications and documentation	390	48	405	50	400	49	410	45
Languages	2,315	43	2,440	44	2,415	43	2,425	42
Historical and philosophical studies	2,225	35	2,395	35	2,395	36	2,405	35
Creative arts and. design	925	32	1,045	33	1,080	33	1,125	33
Education	2,175	38	2,140	36	2,220	35	2,285	35
Combined	125	33	15	30	10	40	10	57
All subjects	37,975	42	40,110	43	40,530	43	41,605	42

[1] Covers EU and non-EU domiciled enrolments.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Royal Mail

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates he met the chief executive of Royal Mail in the last 12 months; and what matters were discussed at each such meeting. [33823]

Mr Davey: BIS Ministers have held several meetings with the chief executive since the general election and have discussed a wide range of issues relating to the business and the Postal Services Bill. The meetings I have had are as follows:

	Meeting with:
21 May 2010	Moya Greene
8 July 2010	Donald Brydon and Moya Greene
15 July 2010	Donald Brydon and Moya Greene
7 September 2010	Donald Brydon and Moya Greene
7 October 2010	Moya Greene
2 November 2010	Moya Greene
29 November 2010	Donald Brydon and Moya Greene
9 December 2010	Donald Brydon and Moya Greene

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has had one meeting as follows:

	Meeting with:
8 December 2010	Moya Greene

Departmental officials meet with representatives of Royal Mail on a regular basis.

Student Loans Company

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of arrangements for information sharing between the Student Loans Company and HM Revenue and Customs; and if he will make a statement. [33419]

Mr Willetts: The Student Loans Company (SLC) and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) regularly exchange information which underpins the collection of student loans; this Department is working with them to develop an electronic data sharing link which will make improvements to the way household income is verified, for the purposes of assessing student support entitlement.

Any issues on information sharing would be the subject of regular discussions between this Department and our partners.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the performance and effectiveness of the Student Loans Company; and if he will make a statement. [33503]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills reviews the performance of the Student Loans Company (SLC) on an ongoing basis. Regular meetings are held at official level, including as part of the shared governance arrangements in place for overseeing student finance delivery. Formal performance reviews are held quarterly and twice yearly are chaired by me, most recently on 20 December 2010.

Following the unacceptable service problems in delivering the academic year 2009/10 applications cycle, the SLC has made significant improvements this year. The company has made improvements to the way it processes applications and deploys staff to better manage applications processing and answering telephones at peak times. Data from the SLC show that 99.3% of applications for students who applied by the relevant deadlines with the right documentation were prepared for payment to be made at the start of term.

There is still more to do to ensure that students and their families receive the level of service that they have every right to expect. The Department is working in partnership with the SLC and are committed to supporting the SLC in its efforts to deliver a more successful student finance service.

Students: Fees and Charges

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that those granted refugee status are eligible for student support for fees for the full length of their intended course of study where they have been accepted as a home student for funding purposes. [33014]

Mr Willetts: In England, home fee status and tuition fee support are available to refugees and their family members as long as they have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands since being recognised as a refugee and they meet all other eligibility requirements. Continuing eligibility will be determined by certain criteria, for example the continuation of refugee status or other qualifying immigration status. There are no plans to change this.

Technology

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contribution his Department is making to the Prime Minister's initiative to create a Tech City in East London. [34564]

Mr Prisk: Officials in this Department and in UKTI have helped to establish contact with potential investors in the East London Tech City initiative, and continue to assist the Greater London authority as the initiative is developed.

More widely, the recently announced Growth Review, which this Department is leading jointly with the Treasury, and which is aimed at creating the conditions for strong, sustainable and balanced growth, will address a range of issues relevant to technology-based companies including access to finance, regulation and competition.

Technology Strategy Board

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will put in place arrangements to ensure that the Technology Strategy Board meets regularly in the regions. [33711]

Mr Willetts: The executive Technology Strategy Board engages extensively with businesses across the UK both directly and through the activities of its knowledge transfer networks and is currently working with the Science and Industry Councils in England looking at the role they may play in future. It will also look to build on the relationship already established with organisations at a sub-national level and develop relationships with those local enterprise partnerships that can demonstrably help it extend its reach and engage with innovative businesses.

Furthermore, the Governing Board of the Technology Strategy Board will hold meetings with occasional elements of local engagement where the topic of business under discussion would benefit from such activity.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to ensure representation of the *(a)* regions and *(b)* nations on the Technology Strategy Board. [33762]

Mr Willetts: Members of the Governing Board of the Technology Strategy Board are drawn from businesses and organisations across the UK on the basis of their relevant experience of, and success in, science and technology development and exploitation from a business perspective.

They are not appointed to represent the interests of English regions or the devolved Administrations, or for that matter, specific business sectors.

At a working level however, the Technology Strategy Board has officials responsible for relationship managing activities at a sub-national level and will look to build on the relationship already established with the devolved Administrations and develop an appropriate relationship with the Local Enterprise Partnerships, particularly those that can demonstrably help the Technology Strategy Board extend its reach and engage with innovative businesses.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department expects to allocate to the Technology Strategy Board in each of the next three years; for what purpose such funding is to be allocated; and if he will make a statement. [33776]

Mr Willetts: Details of the Technology Strategy Board's core budget for the next four years of the spending review period will be detailed in the near future. This funding supports business innovation through mechanisms such as funding for collaborative research projects, knowledge transfer partnerships, the Small Business Research Initiative and for networking. It is focused on those opportunities which offer the greatest scope for boosting UK growth and productivity on the basis of business and academic strength.

An additional £200 million will be provided to the Technology Strategy Board to establish a network of technology and innovation centres. These will complement the approaches highlighted above, where necessary and appropriate, by providing a business led, capital intensive infrastructure that enables business to exploit new and emerging technologies.

Trade: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department not including those in UK Trade and Investment work on international trade in *(a)* general and *(b)* negotiations; and if he will make a statement. [33778]

Mr Davey: The Joint Trade Policy Unit currently has 59 staff. The roles of the team, drawn from both the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Department for International Development, all have some link to trade negotiations.

Work Experience

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage graduates from each social background to take up internships in *(a)* the voluntary sector and *(b)* media industries. [33751]

Mr Willetts: The Government remains committed both to increasing social mobility and to encouraging employers to offer more internships to young people, including graduates.

The Graduate Talent Pool website advertises vacancies from a wide range of sectors, including the voluntary and the media sectors. Eligible graduates from all social backgrounds can apply for internships advertised on the GTP.

Working Hours: EU Law

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress his Department has made in its negotiations on revisions to the European Working Time Directive; and what further negotiations he expects to take place in 2011. [33785]

Mr Davey: The coalition Government are committed to limiting the application of the working time directive in the UK, including maintaining the flexibility provided by the right of individuals to opt out of the maximum 48-hour working week. We have made, and continue to make clear to the Commission and to partners in Europe that we will engage positively and constructively with any further negotiations on the working time directive, and in particular that we would welcome changes to increase flexibility, for instance regarding the treatment of 'on-call' time. But we are stressing at every opportunity that the UK position on the opt-out will remain absolutely firm.

The Commission is currently conducting a consultation on reviewing the directive, limited to European social partners. If the social partners do not decide to come to an agreement on working time, it is likely that the Commission will issue a proposal to amend the directive during 2011.

JUSTICE

Community Orders

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the average cost to the public purse of a shorter intensive supervision order. [33051]

Mr Blunt: Intensive supervision is a common component in community orders imposed as part of the intensive alternatives custody (IAC) pilots. The majority of orders made have been for 12 months with some for 24 months.

Meaningful average costs for IAC are not available as each pilot has developed through negotiation with local courts, and the component parts have varied along with the associated local costs which has meant that costs for each pilot area have differed considerably.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of shorter intensive supervision orders on rates of rehabilitation. [33052]

Mr Blunt: Seven areas are running pilots to test an intensive community order targeting offenders likely to be sentenced to short-term custody. We do not have evidence of the impact of these schemes on reoffending. NOMS has commissioned research including analysis exploring the feasibility of evaluating the schemes' impact on reoffending.

Crime: Prisons

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on recorded crime rates of the change in the prison population between 1997 and 2010. [33115]

Mr Blunt: Rates of recorded crime may be affected by a number of factors beyond changes to the prison population. Possible factors include the effectiveness of policing, the effectiveness of rehabilitation and technological developments in security such as vehicle immobilisers.

The Ministry of Justice published an assessment of the evidence on the complex link between changes in the prison population and recorded crime rates in the Green Paper Evidence Report, 'Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders', December 2010. This concluded that there is no clear consensus from criminologists and commentators about whether imprisonment directly affects crime.

Defamation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the review of the law of libel in England and Wales will include an assessment of whether the families of deceased persons should be able to bring defamation actions in respect of their deceased relatives. [33362]

Mr Djanogly: We are carrying out an extensive review of the law on defamation, and will publish a draft Defamation Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny and full consultation in the spring. As part of the review we are giving consideration to the evidence that has been presented to us on this particular issue.

Departmental Manpower

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes to staffing levels at HM Prison Ford proposed as a consequence of planned reductions in the budget of the National Offender Management Service. [32927]

Mr Blunt: Following the disturbance the Regional Manager Custodial Services will await the outcome of the NOMS investigation before finalising staffing levels for 2011-12.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what requirements there were on the Legal Services Commission and its predecessor to maintain *(a)* the ISO quality standard and *(b)* other external quality standards since December 2004; what steps were taken to ensure such compliance; what requirements there were to audit such compliance; and what the cost to the public purse was of such compliance in each year since 2004. [33753]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is a non-departmental public body able to determine which accreditations it considers are suitable. As such, we have not required the LSC to maintain any quality standards. As best practice, the LSC does maintain or has maintained in the past a number of externally recognised quality standards, which are as follows:

ISO 9002: quality standard from 2001 to 2007

Charter Mark: from 2007 to 2010 (the Charter Mark was abolished by the Government in 2010).

The LSC was assessed on a rolling three-year programme by external assessors for both standards. The LSC passed all assessments and reassessments, and worked with the assessing bodies on various improvements over the years.

Investors in People accreditation: from March 2009 to present

The organisation-wide accreditation is in place for three years. If the LSC decides to apply for reaccreditation in March 2012, it will begin self- assessment from 2011. There are no audit requirements throughout the three-year period until March 2012 when the LSC would be reassessed against the standard by an external assessor through a process of interviews with a sample of staff.

ISO 14001:2004: environmental management standard from March 2009 to August 2010

The ISO 14001 standard defines a set of environmental management requirements for environmental management systems. To ensure compliance the LSC was required to provide continual staff training and monitoring of key performance indicators. Compliance was externally assessed every six months. In August 2010 the LSC withdrew from ISO 14001 accreditation.

The LSC has no central record of the amount spent on compliance with quality standards and such information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Standards

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date and for what reason the Legal Services Commission did not meet the ISO quality standard to which it had been accredited; what steps had been taken to attempt to ensure continued compliance with the standard; and what steps were taken *(a)* in consequence of the failure to meet the standard and *(b)* to return to accredited standards. [33755]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) maintained the ISO 9002 quality standard until 2007, after which it applied for the Charter Mark, which it held from 2007 to 2010, when it was abolished by the Government. At no time did the LSC lose accreditation for the ISO 9002 or Charter Mark standard, and therefore it did not fail to meet the requirements of these standards. For both standards the LSC was assessed on a rolling three-year programme by external assessors. The LSC passed all assessments and reassessments, and worked with the assessing bodies on various improvements over the years.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the Legal Services Commission (LSC) has spent since 2004 on compliance with quality standards. [33845]

Mr Djanogly: Neither the Ministry of Justice nor the Legal Services Commission maintain central records of expenditure on compliance with quality standards and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Driving Offences

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that the offence of obstruction of a driveway is treated in the same way in cases where a vehicle is prevented from *(a)* leaving and *(b)* entering private property. [32256]

Norman Baker: I have been asked to reply.

The police have the power to remove a vehicle from the highway if it is causing an obstruction. It is for the police to decide what constitutes obstruction. The Government are considering extending this power to cover obstruction on private land.

Family Justice Review Panel

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any of the members of the Family Justice Review panel have *(a)* been the subject as children of proceedings under the Children Act 1989, *(b)* been party as a parent to proceedings under the Children Act 1989 and *(c)* undertaken remunerated employment for (i) social services, (ii) CAFCASS, (iii) the National Youth Advocacy Service, (iv) HM Courts Service, (v) the judiciary and (vi) a family legal practice in the last 20 years; and if he will make a statement. [33102]

Mr Djanogly: None of the Family Justice Review Panel have been subject as children of proceedings under the Children Act 1989 or been party as a parent to proceedings under the Children Act 1989.

With regard to part *(c)* of your question:

Mr Justice McFarlane has been a High Court family judge for five years. He practised at the Bar for nearly 30 years before that, latterly specialising in family law and was appointed a QC in 1998. In the course of his practice as a barrister, he regularly acted all categories of parties to family cases and therefore received instructions from social services, CAFCASS, NYAS and parents.

John Coughlan has been the Director of Children's Services for Hampshire county council since 2005 which includes short-term employment in November and December 2008 as Director of Children's Services at Haringey; From 2001 to 2005 he was statutory Director of Social Services for Telford and Wrekin; From 1997 to 2001 he worked for Dudley metropolitan borough council social services department; From 1982 to 1997 he worked for Birmingham city council social services department.

Keith Towler has not been employed by a social services department since 1984 and has never been employed by other organisations listed.

Baroness Richie is a member of the CAFCASS Board and has not been employed by the other organisations listed.

Neither David Norgrove nor Gillian Pugh has been employed by any of the organisations listed.

First Offenders: Females

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many female prisoners there were *(a)* in December 1996, *(b)* in December 2009 and *(c)* on the most recent date for which figures are available; and how many were first-time offenders in each case. [32933]

Mr Blunt: The population of the women's prison estate was as follows:

(a) 2,370 in December 1996, *(b)* 4, 259 in December 2009 and *(c)* 3,982 on 7 January 2011, the most recent date for which figures are available. There were 4,307 female prisoners on 30 June 2009 (the most recent date for which information on first-time offenders is available) of which 3,427 were serving an immediate custodial sentence. 3,328 of these could be found on the Police National Computer and of these 915 had no previous cautions or convictions when sentenced. Figures for first-time offender female prisoners are not available for December 1996 and December 2009.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Ford Prison

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with the governor of HM Prison Ford in the last six months. [33302]

Mr Blunt: I visited Ford prison on 4 August and on 2 January. On both occasions I met with the governor.

Incentives

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been paid in bonuses or enhanced remuneration payments to employees of the Legal Services Commission in respect of performance against *(a)* internally set targets and *(b)* external quality standards in each year since 2007; and what the job title was of the recipient of each such payment. [33754]

Mr Djanogly: A response cannot be prepared in the time available. I will write to the hon. Member with the available information when it has been collated.

Open Prisons: Sentencing

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners there are serving short sentences in open prisons. [32946]

Mr Blunt: The population of those serving short sentences (sentences of less than 12 months) in open prisons at 30 September 2010, was 211.

The figure provided includes those prisoners held in open prisons/YOIs and the relevant parts of multi-site establishments; it does not include those in semi-open prisons or in small (under 50 place) open units at closed prisons.

This figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison Accommodation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the operational capacity of HM Prison Ford is. [32926]

Mr Blunt: As a result of the disturbance on 31 December and 1 January the operational capacity at Ford has been reduced from 557 to a new temporary operational capacity of 445.

Prison Officers

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many were on duty on the prison estate on *(a)* 30 December 2009, *(b)* 31 December 2009 and *(c)* 1 January 2010. [32936]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not collected centrally and to obtain accurate information on the number of staff on duty across the estate on those dates would entail significant disproportionate cost.

Prison Service: Hewlett-Packard

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to HM Prison Service is of the contract with HP Enterprise Services for the provision of *(a)* desktop computers, *(b)* printers and *(c)* telephones in respect of each participating prison. [33435]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is shown in the following table.

The contract with HP Enterprise Services UK Ltd provides a fully managed ICT and telephony service for establishments within the National Offender Management Service. The costs of the services in 2009-10 are shown in the table.

The 'Desktop and Laptops' column also includes the cost of one printer for every seven desktop and laptop devices.

The 'Printers' column is the cost of the printers deployed by each establishment in excess of the 'one in seven' printers included in the previous column.

The 'Desktop Telephones', 'Mobile Telephones' and 'Pagers' columns exclude the cost of calls made from those devices.

2009-10 expenditure by establishment

£

Establishment	*Desktop and laptops*	*Printers*	*Desktop telephones*	*Mobile telephones*	*Pagers*
Acklington	164,016	612	20,779	1,294	198
Albany	188,913	665	16,557	701	438
Ashwell	137,433	1,022	13,389	1,302	201
Askham Grange	68,104	185	7,072	1,133	169
Aylesbury	140,344	501	21,576	1,472	49
Bedford	115,677	393	13,399	1,510	36
Belmarsh	344,349	1,876	29,013	4,815	301
Belmarsh East	—	363	—	15	—
Birmingham	342,587	889	26,949	2,982	700
Blantyre House	41,138	90	5,206	1,271	37
Blundeston	133,296	67	19,554	855	123
Brinsford	196,267	625	17,751	2,820	445
Bristol	180,793	757	16,625	3,382	337
Brixton	201,860	390	25,427	2,881	195
Buckley Hall	115,294	293	11,544	1,965	220
Bullingdon	270,116	864	27,773	1,941	376
Bullwood Hall	82,276	44	10,590	717	130
Camp Hill	141,953	318	11,278	847	197
Canterbury	91,852	235	11,929	925	74
Cardiff	203,698	295	17,365	2,589	654
Castington	152,984	387	12,795	1,348	44
Channings Wood	182,172	133	20,836	1,325	76
Chelmsford	191,441	907	17,751	2,373	293
Coldingley	149,077	698	16,411	1,117	37
Coltishall	71,628	163	6,968	247	9
Cookham Wood	106,024	668	11,632	2,196	161
Dartmoor	148,924	213	18,293	2,219	206
Deerbolt	137,663	660	17,099	1,487	247
Dorchester	78,216	106	8,610	1,179	172
Dover	79,825	511	11,726	1,379	33
Down view	126,938	451	12,185	1,048	62
Drake Hall	110,850	151	10,131	1,009	189
Durham	256,174	855	27,997	1,525	100
East Sutton Park	46,654	259	6,134	1,217	37
Eastwood Park	146,013	519	14,598	3,305	148
Edmunds Hill	108,476	441	9,475	1,495	416
Elmley	139,118	103	18,986	2,103	346
Erlestoke	129,696	468	12,518	1,995	139
Everthorpe	161,105	374	13,905	925	103
Exeter	152,295	474	14,405	1,379	401
Featherstone	166,544	494	21,295	2,034	146
Feltham	329,717	789	32,260	1,479	272
Ford	125,482	369	14,598	1,595	49
Foston Hall	102,041	440	13,946	932	14
Frankland	306,198	932	36,648	3,683	359
Full Sutton	199,944	503	22,858	3,606	180
Garth	163,709	378	20,179	1,664	74
Gartree	220,322	871	19,434	1,148	173
Glen Parva	221,701	464	17,991	2,096	309
Gloucester	118,128	284	10,496	1,048	123
Grendon	167,157	747	19,716	2,928	469
Guys March	118,588	206	13,227	1,102	99
Haslar	50,101	379	8,036	801	48
Haverigg	126,631	322	13,925	2,180	86
Highdown	263,988	1,546	35,126	1,795	457
Highpoint	236,256	1,090	20,586	2,219	153
Hindley	209,444	893	24,646	1,811	206
Hollesley Bay	97,444	611	14,311	2,920	25
Holloway	184,623	364	32,567	2,650	556
Holme House	177,575	432	24,083	1,664	259
Hull	240,010	679	31,442	3,128	542
Huntercombe	148,081	349	16,406	1,841	187
ISIS	14,709	65	—	—	—
Isle of Sheppey	88,864	1,594	—	—	—
Kennett	153,674	1,956	19,518	1,841	12
Kingston	76,530	363	7,385	1,310	55
Kirkham	155,819	437	18,783	2,704	531
Kirklevington Grange	65,959	177	7,004	894	59
Lancaster Castle	90,626	260	9,329	1,163	173
Lancaster Farms	174,970	545	20,909	1,803	258
Latchmere House	57,302	150	8,026	1,025	62
Leeds	267,818	344	28,763	2,034	502
Leicester	114,221	401	14,269	1,387	56
Lewes	203,315	1,589	17,162	2,851	182
Leyhill	125,789	82	15,494	2,643	212
Lincoln	165,088	696	18,032	1,140	158
Lindholme	238,401	1,118	22,321	1,094	107
Littlehey	166,467	234	21,102	1,002	235
Liverpool	246,062	1,384	33,896	4,122	136
Long Lartin	242,308	1,332	27,752	4,469	605
Low Newton	135,211	1,387	13,467	1,872	308
Maidstone	161,028	339	16,245	1,156	60
Manchester	276,858	1,275	28,059	3,999	333
Moorland	226,757	504	32,646	2,465	284
Morton Hall	122,571	347	11,815	1,387	148
Mount (The)	149,614	484	17,068	2,581	383
New Hall	186,615	799	17,188	1,733	114
North Sea Camp	95,606	178	10,350	925	62
Northallerton	79,135	237	10,871	1,341	25
Norwich	179,414	303	23,661	1,757	416
Nottingham	224,918	1,151	23,301	1,926	136
Onley	246,904	823	25,480	1,032	210
Parkhurst	144,711	470	23,108	2,720	249
Pentonville	295,703	510	30,519	2,743	540
Portland	144,098	347	21,633	1,233	—
Preston	191,747	630	22,379	2,997	49
Ranby	219,249	869	25,818	2,011	679
Reading	98,746	336	11,413	1,109	181
Redditch Cluster	369,782	788	39,124	5,547	556
Risley	190,752	591	19,950	2,966	190
Rochester	204,081	1,564	19,002	1,618	282
Send	119,507	673	15,463	3,313	62
Shepton Mallet	78,829	70	9,443	1,186	210
Shrewsbury	116,289	226	12,497	1,757	73
Stafford	171,676	336	20,289	1,294	62
Standford Hill	120,733	249	14,087	2,203	202
Stocken	182,631	478	17,360	1,941	232
Stoke Heath	187,687	473	21,170	1,965	86

2009-10 expenditure by establishment

£

Establishment	*Desktop and laptops*	*Printers*	*Desktop telephones*	*Mobile telephones*	*Pagers*
Styal	165,241	497	18,376	462	12
Sudbury	129,619	252	13,957	1,117	37
Swaleside	148,005	343	17,725	1,240	148
Swansea	113,991	324	10,798	2,165	136
Swinfen Hall	170,451	957	15,849	1,834	248
Thorn Cross	123,950	507	10,736	1,379	12
Usk	111,999	328	16,912	1,579	136
Verne (The)	131,458	395	13,733	709	109
Wakefield	280,841	1,613	30,618	2,943	206
Wandsworth	431,144	2,136	36,533	6,009	914
Warren Hill	135,288	360	11,460	678	247
Wayland	197,340	351	17,073	1,757	206
Wealstun	198,872	846	21,342	647	95
Wellingborough	142,412	531	18,684	2,150	210
Werrington	83,808	441	11,288	1,302	123
Wetherby	187,917	1,585	15,859	1,787	161
Wharton	271,112	2,022	21,039	2,735	185
Whitemoor	291,490	932	28,101	3,220	171
Winchester	166,390	642	19,252	948	326
Woodhill	253,416	719	27,648	3,159	441
Wormwood Scrubs	300,376	495	29,696	2,157	173
Wymott	226,757	996	22,655	1,872	81

Prisoners

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the prison population was on 31 December 2010. [33104]

Mr Blunt: The prison population as at 31 December 2010 was 83,055.

The prison population figures are published by the Ministry of Justice and can be found free of charge at the HM Prison Service website via the following:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/resourcecentre/publicationsdocuments/index.asp?cat=85

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the size of the prison population in 2014-15. [33105]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice produces annual projections of the prison population in England and Wales, most recently in August 2010. These project the prison population under three different scenarios based on different assumptions about future sentencing trends (increasing sentencing, no change and decreasing custody rate and average custodial sentence length).

The following table shows average monthly projected prison population for the financial year 2014-15.

Average projected prison population[1]

	Sentencing trends		
	Increase	*No change*	*Decrease*
2014-15	92,100	88,500	84,700

[1] *Financial year figures.*

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

These and more details on the projections may be found in the latest published bulletin "Prison Population Projections 2010-2016" Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin, 10 August 2010. This is available at the following webpage:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonpopulation.htm

These projections take no account of any impact on the prison population which might result from proposed sentencing reforms noted in the recently published Ministry of Justice business plan 2011-15, which is available at the following webpage:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/business-plan-2011-15.htm

As such these projections provide a set of "baseline" scenarios against which the impacts of future changes can be assessed.

Other impacts included in the projections, cover the anticipated impacts of policy and process initiatives that have agreed implementation timetables.

For the 2010 prison population projections these include the impact of changes to arrangements for release on licence for current prisoners sentenced under the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which were brought in through the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 and the impact of the withdrawal of End of Custody Licence in March 2010. These impacts are applied equally to all scenarios.

Prisoners: Alcohol

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many serving prisoners have been diagnosed with drink problems; and how many such prisoners are receiving treatment in alcohol dependency units. [32935]

Mr Blunt: Research carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)[1] states that 63% of sentenced males and 39% of sentenced females reported a hazardous drinking pattern in the year before coming into prison. A more recent survey carried out in 2005-06[2] found that 23% of prisoners (sentenced from one month to four years) reported having drunk alcohol in the four weeks prior to custody and that they would find it quite difficult or impossible to stop drinking.

Figures for those receiving a clinical intervention for alcohol dependency were last collated centrally in 2002-03, when an estimated 6,400 prisoners undertook an alcohol detoxification with an estimated 7,000 more prisoners undertaking detoxification for combined alcohol and drug misuse.

A range of interventions are in place to support those with an alcohol problem. For those prisoners who are alcohol dependent, services are in the main provided within the wider drug treatment framework. Interventions are not necessarily delivered within specialist rehabilitation units.

[1] Substance Misuse among prisoners in England and Wales (1997), Singleton, Farrell and Meltzer.

[2] Ministry of Justice (2010) "Compendium of reoffending statistics and analysis". Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin. London: Ministry of Justice.

Prisoners: Drugs

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many serving prisoners have been diagnosed with drug problems; and how many such prisoners are receiving treatment in drug rehabilitation units. [32934]

Mr Blunt: We do not collect central figures on the diagnosed drug problems of prisoners. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) estimates that on average 55% of those entering prison have a serious drug problem.[1] A survey of 1,435 prisoners sentenced to between one month and four years in 2005 and 2006[2] showed 64% of prisoners reporting having used drugs in the four weeks prior to custody.

In 2009-10 66,459 prisoners engaged with CARAT (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare) services in prisons and 60,067 received a clinical intervention. Of these 10,206 started an accredited drug treatment programme.

In addition to this 6,586 young people (15 to 17-year-olds) in custody engaged with the Young People's Substance Misuse Service (YPSMS).[3]

The drug treatment framework is available across prisons and is designed to meet the needs of all drug-misusing offenders. Interventions are not necessarily delivered within specialist rehabilitation units.

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[1] Principally based on figures from 'Substance misuse among prisoners in England and Wales', Office for National Statistics (1999), Singleton et al.

[2] Ministry of Justice (2010) "Compendium of reoffending statistics and analysis". Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin. London: Ministry of Justice.

[3] All data are drawn from administrative IT systems and are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale assessment and recording system.

Prisoners: Gender Recognition

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to issue guidance to prisons on the location and treatment of transgender prisoners. [33509]

Mr Blunt: The draft Prison Service instruction on the care and management of transsexual prisoners is currently awaiting final approval from the National Offender Management Service Operational Policy Group, and will be published shortly after this approval is obtained. In the meantime the draft instruction is available to prison staff who can also contact the relevant policy leads at National Offender Management Service headquarters for further advice and support.

Prisoners: Mental Health

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving custodial sentences have been diagnosed with mental health problems; and how many such prisoners are receiving treatment in psychiatric hospitals. [33109]

Mr Blunt: The diagnosis and treatment of mental health problems suffered by sentenced prisoners is for medical professionals under the NHS prison mental health in-reach programme. Figures are not centrally available for prisoners who have been so diagnosed and who are receiving treatment in prison. However, in the most recent survey of prisoner backgrounds, 17% reported having been treated or counselled for a mental health or emotional problem in the year before custody. On 10 January 2011, 824 sentenced prisoners in England and Wales were receiving treatment in psychiatric hospitals, after being transferred for treatment by the Secretary of State under the Mental Health Act 1983.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of serving prisoners of each sex who have a diagnosed personality disorder. [33431]

Mr Blunt: Data are not held centrally on the numbers of serving prisoners with a diagnosed personality disorder. However, it is estimated that approximately two-thirds of prisoners would meet the criteria for at least one type of personality disorder.

The prevalence of personality disorder among the prison population was estimated in a Ministry of Justice report 'The problems and needs of newly sentenced prisoners: results from a national survey', Ministry of Justice Research Series 16/08, October 2008. This indicated that 61% of prisoners in the sample were assessed as having a personality disorder. There was little difference by sentence length, but the rate was higher for men than for women (62% versus 57%), and for adults compared to young offenders (63% versus 53%).

The Ministry of Justice Rehabilitation Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders' noted that the national health service and National Offender Management Service plan to reconfigure existing services in secure and community settings to manage high risk, sexual or violent offenders whose offending is linked to severe forms of personality disorder. The implementation plan for these changes will be subject to a separate consultation by the Department of Health and the Ministry of Justice to be launched shortly.

Prisons

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment has been made of the *(a)* prevalence of gangs in and *(b)* effect of gangs on (i) HM Prison Ford and (ii) the prison estate in the last six months. [33056]

Mr Blunt: In view of the ongoing criminal and NOMS investigations into the incident at HMP Ford, it would be inappropriate to comment prior to the conclusion of those investigations.

The identification of 'gangs' in prison is not always straightforward given the loose and fluid nature of affiliations and the inherent difficulties of defining a 'gang' separately from other groups. Gang-related issues have been and continue to be managed within the overall framework to manage prisons and provide a safe and decent environment. Where gang-related issues are pronounced, governors work with local police forces to share information as necessary.

Prisoners: Alcohol

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether there are circumstances in which prisoners are permitted to consume alcohol while in custody; and if he will make a statement; [33403]

(2) how many investigations concerning the use of alcohol by prisoners have taken place in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [33404]

Mr Blunt: Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in prison under any circumstances. Prison rule 25 (1) states:

> "No prisoner shall be allowed to have any intoxicating liquor."

Under the Offender Management Act (2007) it is a criminal offence for prisoners to bring, or attempt to bring, alcohol in to a prison without prior authorisation.

Where a prisoner is found to have broken prison rules they will be subject to internal disciplinary proceedings rather than investigation.

Numbers of proven offences under internal disciplinary procedures of prisoners consuming alcohol during the last five years is in the following table:

	Number
2005	185
2006	216
2007	243
2008	281
2009	233

Note:
Numbers for 2010 are not yet available.

A copy of prison rules is available in the Library of the House.

Prisons: Closed Circuit Television

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether CCTV was in operation at HM Prison Ford at the time of the disturbances in December 2010 and January 2011. [33064]

Mr Blunt: HMP Ford does have CCTV equipment. The use of CCTV at the prison during the disturbance is something the NOMS investigation will comment on and it would be inappropriate to pre-empt the findings of this investigation, or the police investigation which is also ongoing.

Prisons: Discipline

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the terms of reference are for the inquiry into the disturbances at HM Prison Ford in December 2010 and January 2011. [32925]

Mr Blunt: The Commissioning Officer, Michael Spurr (chief executive officer, NOMS) appointed Ian Mulholland, the Investigating Officer, to investigate the events surrounding the disturbance at HMP Ford on 31 December 2010 and 1 January 2011: to determine what occurred; to establish the causes and chronology of events; how the incident was managed; and, to identify learning to enable the service to prevent or better manage such incidents at Ford and elsewhere across the estate in future.

He specifically asked the Investigating Officer to consider:

The events that led to the disturbance, what occurred and whether preventative action could have been taken, including:

> Any intelligence or risk assessment made prior to and during the disturbance;
>
> The level of staffing on duty.
>
> The response to and management of the incident itself, including:
>
> The "first at scene", Silver and Gold arrangements;
>
> Deployment of national resources and joint working with the emergency services.
>
> Any underlying issues/factors which may have contributed to the disturbance including any aspects of the general management of the prison which may have had an impact.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice at what time Ministers in his Department were first informed of the disturbance at HM Prison Ford; and what steps Ministers took in response. [32944]

Mr Blunt: In line with the usual protocols when Gold Command is opened in response to an incident, my Private Office were informed first at approximately 3 am on Saturday 1 January. I was informed later in the morning when the incident escalated and received regular updates thereafter. I visited the Gold Command suite in London on the same day and also briefed the press. On the morning of 2 January I visited HMP Ford. My right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Justice was also informed of the incident.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what methods the Prison Service uses at HM prison Ford to assess whether disturbances are likely. [32945]

Mr Blunt: HMP Ford conducts a daily operational briefing which discusses recent and forthcoming operational issues. The security manager submits a weekly report to the regional office, including a section on the stability of the prison, a monthly security meeting also assesses the stability of the prison.

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers were on duty at the outbreak of the recent disturbance at HM Prison Ford; and for how many prisoners they were responsible. [32999]

Mr Blunt: Two prison officers and four operational support grades were on duty at the outbreak of the disturbance. The population of Ford at the time of the disturbance was 487.

Prisons: Manpower

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's minimum recommended ratio of prison officers to prisoners is for an open prison. [33000]

Mr Blunt: There are no minimum recommended ratios of prison officer to prisoners in open prisons. Each prison is individually risk assessed and minimum staffing levels are agreed with the Regional Manager Custodial and Director of Offender Management.

Prostitution: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for *(a)* kerb crawling, *(b)* soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place, *(c)* keeping a brothel and *(d)* control of prostitution in respect of offences committed in the London Borough of Newham in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [33388][1]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected prostitution related offences in the Metropolitan police force area for the years 2008 to 2009 can be viewed in the table.

Information at borough level is not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

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[1] *[Official Report, 21 March 2011, Vol. 525, c. 19MC.]*

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected prostitution related offences in the Metropolitan police force area for the years 2008-09[1,2,3]

Offence	*2008*	*2009*
Kerb crawling	165	117
Soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place	114	65
Keeping a brothel	5	10
Control of prostitution	16	4

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Kerb, crawling:
Sexual Offences Act 1985, S.1
kerb crawling
Sexual Offences Act 1985, S.2
Persistent soliciting of person or persons for the purpose of prostitution
Soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place:
Sexual Offences Act 1985, S.1
Common prostitute loitering or soliciting for the purpose of prostitution
Keeping a brothel:
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.33A as added by the Sexual Offences Act 1967
Keeping a brothel for prostitution
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.34
Letting premises for use as a brothel
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.34
Letting premises for use as a brothel for homosexual practices
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.35
Tenant permitting premises to be used as a brothel
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.35 as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.53
Tenant permitting premises to be used as a brothel for homosexual practices
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.33 as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 1967
Keeping a brothel for homosexual practices
Control of prostitution:
Sexual Offences Act 2001 S.53
Controlling prostitution for gain
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Ranby Prison: Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff are employed at Ranby prison. [33408]

Mr Blunt: On 30 September 2010, there were 488 staff employed at HMP Ranby, with a full-time equivalent of 464, having accounted for part-time staff.

Reoffenders

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reconviction rate after *(a)* 12 and *(b)* 24 months for prisoners aged (i) 21 years or less and (ii) 18 years or less on release from prison was on the most recent date for which figures are available. [33110]

Mr Blunt: The latest reconviction data are based on offences committed within one year of an offender being discharged from custody. We are currently consulting on a new reoffending measure which includes plans to publish one and two-year reoffending rates.

Reconviction rates are published separately for adults (those aged 18 years or older) and juveniles (those aged between 10 and 17).

Table Ia shows the reconviction rate for adult offenders discharged from custody broken down by age band. Table Ib shows the reconviction rate for juvenile offenders discharged from custody.

Table Ia: Adult one-year reconviction rates for offenders discharged from custody in Q1 2008, by age band

Age band	*Number of offenders*	*Reconviction rate (percentage)*
18-20	2,185	57.6
21-24	3,009	50.7
25-29	3,313	53.8
30-34	2,435	51.7
35-39	1,953	49.0
40-49	2,293	40.8
50+	911	25.8
Total	16,099	49.4

Table Ib: Juvenile (aged 10 to 17) one-year reconviction rates for offenders discharged from custody in Q1 2008

Age band	*Number of offenders*	*Reconviction rate (percentage)*
10 to 17	816	73.4

More information on the reoffending rates is available from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingjuveniles.htm

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reconviction rate after *(a)* 12 and *(b)* 24 months for prisoners released from prison following a sentence of (i) 12 months or less, (ii) between one and four years and (iii) more than four years was on the most recent date for which figures are available. [33111]

Mr Blunt: The latest reconviction data are based on offences committed within one year of an offender being discharged from custody. We are currently consulting on a new reoffending measure which includes plans to publish one and two year reoffending rates.

The following table shows the number and one year reconviction rate of adult offenders who were released from custody in the first quarter of 2008.

One year reconviction rate for offenders released from custody in the first quarter of 2008

Sentence length	*Number of offenders*	*Reconviction rate (percentage)*
Less than 12 months	10,251	61.1
Between one and four years	4,533	32.2
Four years and over	1,315	17.6
Total	16,099	49.4

Further information on adult reconviction is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reconviction rate after *(a)* 12 and *(b)* 24 months for persons discharged from approved premises was on the most recent date for which figures are available. [33112]

Mr Blunt: Reconviction data for persons discharged from approved premises are not available. Further information on adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reconviction rate after *(a)* 12 and *(b)* 24 months is for persons sentenced to (i) a community order, (ii) a community order with a programme requirement and (iii) a community order with a curfew tag requirement was on the most recent date for which figures are available. [33113]

Mr Blunt: The latest re-conviction data provided are based on offences committed within one year of an offender commencing a court order under probation supervision.

Table 1 shows the re-conviction rates for offenders commencing a community order under probation supervision between January and March 2008, including those with accredited programme and curfew requirements.

Table 1: Adult one-year re-conviction rates for offenders commencing a community order in Q1 2008, by requirement type

	Number of offenders	*Re-conviction rate (percentage)*
Community order	27,504	36.4
Accredited programme[1]	5,708	40.9
Curfew[1]	2,762	43.8

[1] Stand alone or in combination with other requirements.

Re-conviction rates provided here should not be compared to assess the effectiveness of sentences, as there is no control for known differences in offender characteristics.

Further breakdowns of two-year re-conviction data are not available. However the latest headline two-year re-conviction rates published are for the 2006 cohort. For adult offenders 51.9% were re-convicted in two years.

We are currently consulting on a new re-offending measure which includes plans to publish one and two-year re-offending rates on a consistent basis.

More information on the re-conviction rates is available from the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reconviction rate after *(a)* 12 and *(b)* 24 months for persons sentenced to (i) unpaid work and (ii) unpaid work with additional requirements was on the most recent date for which figures are available. [33114]

Mr Blunt: The latest reconviction data provided are based on offences committed within one year of an offender commencing a court order under probation supervision. We are currently consulting on a new reoffending measure which includes plans to publish one and two year reoffending rates.

The following table shows the reconviction rates for offenders sentenced to a court order under probation supervision between January and March 2008, with unpaid work and unpaid work with additional requirements.

Adult one-year reconviction rates for offenders commencing court order with an unpaid work requirement in Q1 2008

	Number of offenders	*Reconviction rate (percentage)*
Unpaid work	11,546	24.1
Unpaid work with additional requirements	7,528	33.4
Total unpaid work[1]	19,074	27.8

[1] Stand alone or in combination with other requirements

Reconviction rates provided here should not be compared to assess the effectiveness of sentences, as there is no control for known differences in offender characteristics.

More information on the reconviction rates is available from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Sentencing Green Paper

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budget his Department has set for its planned consultation events on the Sentencing Green Paper. [32937]

Mr Blunt: The cost of consultation events will be met within existing budgets of policy areas developing proposals and therefore no overall budget has been set. Costs will be kept to a minimum, and for those 11 events already planned it is estimated that they will cost no more than £10,000.

Sentencing: Young People

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of suspended sentences given to 18 to 20-year-olds were breached leading to the activation of a custodial sentence in the last three years for which figures are available. [33676]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, data are available on the reasons for termination of suspended sentence orders during the supervision period of the order. These reasons include early termination for failure to comply with requirements or for conviction of a further offence. The number and proportion of suspended sentence orders which terminated for these reasons for the years 2007 to 2009 for 18 to 20-year-olds are shown in the following table:

	Failure to comply with requirements		*Convicted of further offence*	
	Number	*Proportion of all SSO terminations*	*Number*	*Proportion of all SSO terminations*
2007	1,381	30	941	20
2008	1,395	21	1,258	19
2009	1,243	18	1,259	18

Note:

It is not possible to compare percentages in 2007 with later years because not enough time had elapsed since these orders were introduced in April 2005 to allow a sufficiently high percentage to run their full course

In addition, the figures for receptions into prison of 18 to 20-year-olds for breach of a Suspended Sentence Order were 913 in 2007, 1,040 in 2008 and 824 in 2009.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Relationship Breakdown: Financial Consequences

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of introducing guidance on the division of the estates of co-habiting couples who separate. [33275]

Mr Djanogly: This Government are considering the published research on the impact of the Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006, which contains provisions for cohabitants when their relationship ends, along with the proposals set out in the Law Commission's report, 'Cohabitation: The 'Financial Consequences of Relationship Breakdown' published in 2007.

We will announce shortly the outcome of that consideration and in advance of this it would be premature to consider the introduction of guidance.

Squatting

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 126W, on squatting: crime, under what circumstances squatting in residential properties may be considered an act of peaceful protest. [33342]

Mr Blunt: Our review of the law in relation to squatting is not only looking at squatting in residential properties but also squatting in non-residential properties. As part of that package we need to take account of all of the coalition commitments, including those to uphold the right to peaceful protest and to guard against the proliferation of unnecessary criminal offences.

Protestors have in the past occupied residential properties (e.g. to protest on the roofs of the homes of political figures) and non-residential buildings (e.g. to stage a sit-in to protest against the policies of an employer) to generate publicity for their causes. These may not be typical cases of 'squatting', but we need to recognise the various forms trespass can take when exploring the possibilities for strengthening the law in this area.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 18 January 2011

SCOTLAND

Universal Credit

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effects of the introduction of the proposed universal credit in Scotland. [34041]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I are in regular discussion with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions on a number of issues, including the introduction of the universal credit in Scotland.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

ParliQuiz

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the cost to the House of Commons Service was of developing the ParliQuiz application for the Apple iPhone; and which company was contracted for this project. [33769]

John Thurso: The cost of the ParliQuiz application to the House of Commons was £5,075, which included content and technical development. The technical build was undertaken by an independent developer, Eknath Kadam. The content authoring was undertaken by an independent writer, Mike Greenwood.

WALES

Chinese Trade

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(b)* UK Trade and Investment on the recent Chinese trade delegation to the UK. [34161]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales continues to have ongoing discussions with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and other Cabinet colleagues regarding overseas trade both to and from Wales.

The Secretary of State has also met with the former chief executive of UK Trade and Investment and will be meeting the new Trade Minister in the near future. We remain committed to ensuring that Wales derives the greatest possible benefits both from overseas trade and from inward investment.

Welsh Assembly Government

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which Minister in each Department is responsible for liaison with the Welsh Assembly Government. [34087]

Mr David Jones: Each Government Minister is responsible for liaising with the Welsh Assembly Government on their specific areas of responsibility.

TRANSPORT

Cycling: Accidents

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cyclists died as a result of road traffic accidents in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [33859]

Mike Penning: There were 104 pedal cyclists killed in road accidents in Great Britain in 2009. Data for 2010 will be published in June 2011.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1299W, on the Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: tolls, what procedure is followed to determine whether to suspend the tolls at the Dartford Crossing; what criteria inform the decision; and who is responsible for the decision. [33582]

Mike Penning: The road user charge at the Dartford Crossing can be suspended in both directions, in exceptional emergency circumstances, to facilitate the safe movement of traffic or in the interests of the safety of the public, in accordance with the Transport Act 2000, section 172A.

The decision to suspend the charge is taken by a senior civil servant within the Highways Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, in accordance with the relevant legislation.

The Department for Transport has made it clear that it is willing to consider suspending the charges when congestion is particularly severe, and where the need to collect charges is contributing to that congestion and we will be issuing guidance in the near future.

Departmental NDPBs

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average salary was of people on fixed-term contracts in each of the non-departmental public bodies sponsored by his Department in April 2010 and each subsequent month. [31015]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 16 December 2010]*: The average annual salary of people on fixed-term contracts in each of the non-departmental public bodies sponsored by the Department for Transport in April 2010 and each subsequent month was:

Average salary of people on fixed-term contracts

	Renewable Fuels Agency	British Transport Police Authority	Directly Operated Railways Ltd	Northern Lighthouse Board	Passenger Focus	Trinity Lighthouse
2010						
April	69,500	18,000	8,000	25,900	32,100	15,700

Average salary of people on fixed-term contracts

	Renewable Fuels Agency	*British Transport Police Authority*	*Directly Operated Railways Ltd*	*Northern Lighthouse Board*	*Passenger Focus*	*Trinity Lighthouse*
May	69,500	18,000	8,000	25,900	33,300	17,300
June	69,500	18,000	8,000	25,900	31,800	18,500
July	69,500	18,000	5,600	25,900	30,800	18,400
August	69,500	18,000	8,300	28,700	29,700	19,600
September	69,500	18,000	7,300	28,700	28,800	18,000
October	69,500	18,000	7,000	0,000	28,200	20,100
November	69,500	18,000	7,300	0,000	27,600	18,400

There were no staff employed on fixed-term contracts by the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, Traffic Commissioners and Deputy Traffic Commissioners in this period.

Departmental Procurement

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have taken to comply with the guidance of the Office of Government Commerce on promoting skills through public procurement issued in 2009. [31320]

Norman Baker: The primary purpose of Government procurement is to buy goods and services the Government need, at the best combination of quality and whole-life costs to obtain the best value for money. This, of course, with due regard to environmental considerations in support of which Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recently published the Action Plan for driving Sustainable Operations and Procurement across Government. Government will shortly be publishing revised commitments for waste, water and carbon (including transport and business travel) for the Government estate.

The Department for Transport supports the promotion of skills and considers it has most opportunity to encourage the use of apprenticeships through the construction work contracted by the Highways Agency.

At the start of 2010 the Highway Agency (HA) Board agreed to a target to deliver 100 new apprenticeships through procurement activity by the end of 2012.

From information gathered from 45 key suppliers in September 2010 HA identified 42 apprenticeships had started working on HA contracts since 1 January 2010.

Highway Agency also took the opportunity to promote the "Skills Pledge" administered by the Skills Funding Agency. To date 49% of their 45 key suppliers have signed up to the Skills Pledge to invest in the skills and training of their workforce.

Highway Agency has also begun incorporating elements relating to skills and apprenticeships into various stages of the procurement process.

Heathrow Airport: Snow Severe Weather Ice

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with his ministerial colleagues on mobilising resources to permit the maximum functioning of Heathrow during the recent severe weather. [32631]

Mrs Villiers: Through the course of the recent severe weather conditions, the Secretary of State chaired the Ministerial Winter Resilience Network set up to co-ordinate actions across Government Departments. He also provided the Prime Minister with regular updates on the position on the recent severe weather, with particular reference to the functioning of Heathrow.

Humber Bridge: CCTV

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what purposes CCTV is used on the Humber bridge. [33974]

Norman Baker: Installation and monitoring of CCTV is the responsibility of the Humber Bridge Board. The Board have informed the Department that CCTV at the Humber bridge is primarily employed to allow remote monitoring of the Board's property and infrastructure which would otherwise be impractical.

The equipment is located to allow visual confirmation of conditions throughout the site occupied by the Humber Bridge Board although the Board recognises that this will, unavoidably, sometimes include surrounding land which cannot be practically excluded from the field of view of the CCTV equipment.

The images collected will allow observations to be made in respect of ensuring the Bridge Board operates a safe and secure environment for both staff and visiting members of the general public and is able to identify and respond to issues arising that could affect this environment. These issues may include:

Traffic Management and traffic conditions generally

Security in areas unauthorised for general access

Casual observation of vehicles and persons entering Bridge

Board property to enable early identification of behaviour likely to compromise the safe and secure environment

The observation of vehicles or persons whose behaviour causes concern

Specific observation of vehicles or persons involved in an incident, dispute or collision on Board property.

Humber Bridge: Snow Severe Weather Ice

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who is responsible for clearing snow from the highway over the Humber Bridge during bad weather; for what reason both lanes in each direction were not cleared of snow on 28 November 2010; whether consideration was given to not charging the full toll to motorists using the bridge in this state; and if he will make a statement. [33770]

Norman Baker: Snow clearance and toll reductions during extreme weather are a matter for the Humber Bridge Board. The Board has informed me that the extreme weather conditions on 28 November, made it impractical to ensure the road surface of the Humber Bridge was entirely free of snow. The bridge was, however, passable throughout this period although local police forces imposed their own restrictions on some roads giving access to the bridge.

Humber Bridge: Speed Limits

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who decides *(a)* when temporary speed limits are to be imposed on the Humber Bridge crossing and *(b)* what such speed limits should be; whether a review mechanism of such decisions is in place to ensure that a low speed limit is not unnecessarily imposed; and if he will make a statement. [33771]

Norman Baker: The Humber Bridge Board has responsibility for any temporary speed limits and the limit at which they are set. Temporary speed limits are imposed by the Board on the Humber Bridge to ensure the safety of users of the bridge in adverse conditions including bad weather and work requiring traffic management. The Board has in place detailed written procedures formulated with consideration of national precedents and historical experience at the bridge, which allows the speed limits to be set at an appropriate level. These restrictions are reviewed in real time and modified or removed as appropriate.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the M18 motorway to be clear of roadworks and temporary speed restrictions in both directions. [33984]

Mike Penning: There are currently four schemes being undertaken on the M18 between junctions 2 and 5 which are due to be completed by the end of March 2011.

This work includes three schemes to replace steel central reserve barriers, which are approaching the end of their design life, with new concrete central reserve barrier:

Junction 4 North (Waterton Bridge): commenced 20 December for 13 weeks.

Junction 3 North: commenced 18 October for 16 weeks.

Junction 2 to 3: commenced 20 December for 10 weeks.

In addition to the safety barrier works, work has also commenced at the A1 (M)/M18 Wadworth Interchange (M18 Junction 2) to install traffic signals. This is also due to be completed by the end of March 2011.

Railway Network: Subsidence

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding Network Rail has allocated to the prevention of land slips near railway lines in each of the last five years. [34153]

Mrs Villiers: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's acting chief executive at the following address for a response to her question:

Peter Henderson
Acting Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London
N1 9AG.

Sea Rescue

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 133-4WS, on coastguard services (modernisation) what the lower cost is that he estimates will be achieved by implementing his proposals. [34343]

Mike Penning: The consultation document 'Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century' (pages 38-39) states that the proposals would reduce both long-term running costs and capital expenditure and generate a total saving, in net present value terms, of some £120 million over 25 years.

Copies of the consultation have been placed in the Libraries of the House and are available on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website at:

www.mcga.gov.uk

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 133-4WS, on coastguard services (modernisation), what the membership is of the team which brought forward the modernisation proposals; and what experience each such member had in the coastguard and rescue service. [34345]

Mike Penning: The Coastguard Modernisation programme team within the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has pulled together a wide range of skills and experience covering Operational Coastguard, Human Resources, Finance, Communications and Programme/Project Management. Operational Coastguard experience has been drawn from headquarters officers who have performed a wide range of operational roles during their careers, and current serving coastal safety managers, watch officers and watch managers.

The proposals set out in the consultation document represent the collective, corporate position of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and its chief executive, Sir Alan Massey.

Southeastern: Franchises

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) by what date he expects to take a decision on the extension of the Southeastern rail franchise by a further two years as provided for under the Integrated Kent Franchise; [33333]

(2) whether he plans to undertake a public consultation before deciding whether to extend the Southeastern rail franchise by a further two years. [33334]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: The Southeastern Continuation Review period under the Integrated Kent franchise agreement ended on 12 December 2010. The Department for Transport is currently reviewing Southeastern's performance against the review criteria and the Secretary of State expects to notify the operator of the outcome in due course.

The Secretary of State will not be undertaking a public consultation. The terms of the franchise agreed by the previous Administration require the Secretary of

State to offer an additional two years to Southeastern, at the price agreed in 2005, if it passes the Continuation Review.

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the Integrated Kent Franchise; and if he will make a statement. [33904]

Mrs Villiers: The franchise contract agreed with Southeastern by the previous administration includes a Continuation Review. The terms of the franchise provide that if the targets contained in the Continuation Review are met by Southeastern, the Department for Transport is obliged to offer the train operator a two year extension of its franchise to cover the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2014.

The Continuation Review period ended on 12 December 2010. Department for Transport officials are currently assessing Southeastern's performance against the review criteria and an announcement on the outcome will be made in due course.

Train Operating Companies: Weather

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what sanctions are open to him to use against *(a)* train operating companies and *(b)* Network Rail in the event that he determines that they failed to fulfil their contractual obligations during the winter weather of November and December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [29628]

Mrs Villiers: The provisions contained in train operators' franchise agreements specify the sanctions available in the event that the operator fails to fulfil its contractual requirements. All new rail franchises incorporate performance requirements—including punctuality and cancellations—which are monitored by the Department for Transport.

Franchise agreements set out a staged process to be followed in the event that train operators fail to comply with their contractual obligations. This may include a fine, and/or requiring the operator to produce remedial plan setting out measures to restore performance and targets for improvement.

The Office of Rail Regulation monitors Network Rail's operational activities. If it considers that Network Rail is falling short of its Network Licence obligations, it may take enforcement action against Network Rail. This involves issuing an Enforcement Order, the provision for which is set out in the Railways Act 1993, which sets out the steps Network Rail must take in order to comply with its licence obligations, the timescales for achieving compliance, and any financial penalty that it is felt appropriate to impose.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial support his Department plans to provide to the hybrid motor vehicle industry in each of the next four financial years. [33633]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

To meet UK carbon targets, the road transport sector needs to be decarbonised and a key element will be the move to ultra-low carbon vehicles, including electric and plug-in hybrid. The spending review announced provision of in excess of £400 million over the lifetime of this Parliament to support the decarbonisation of road transport. This support will include:

A commitment to a national recharging infrastructure for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, informed by the eight Plugged-In Places (PIP) pilot projects which will deliver approximately 8,000 charging points, between 2010-13;

The Plug-In Car Grant (PICG) which was successfully launched on 1 January 2011. The PICG promotes consumer uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles by providing 25% of the cost of the car up to a cap of £5,000 to both private and business purchasers of eligible cars (which include the Toyota Prius plug-in hybrid);

The Technology Strategy Board's (TSB) core budget for the upcoming spending review period has yet to be allocated and until such a time it will not be possible for the TSB to specify the level of funding that it is likely to allocate towards the development of Low Carbon Vehicle technology. The TSB has been working in close partnership with this Department, the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to support Low Carbon Vehicle Research and Development (R and D) under a range of themes—including hybrid vehicle technology—prioritised by an industry-led steering group and informed by the New Automotive Innovation and Growth Team Technology Roadmap and Automotive Council findings. Funding is not, however, pre-allocated to specific themes, is subject to a competitive process and success will depend on the quality of the proposals submitted.

The projected R and D spend over the period 1 April 2011-31 March 2015 by the EPSRC in support of the hybrid motor vehicle industry is shown in the following table (based on current grants only).

Financial year	*EPSRC spend on hybrid motor vehicle research (£)*
2011-12	8,115,823.84
2012-13	4,065,194.30
2013-14	2,369,970.74
2014-15	1,312,166.87
Total	15,863,155.75

The DfT funded Low Carbon Vehicle Public Procurement programme has provided 200 all-electric and hybrid vans into public sector fleets. The value of this has been £6 million in the financial year 2010-11, and will be £1 million in 2011-12.

DfT pays a bus subsidy incentive, at a rate of 6 pence per kilometre, to bus operators in England who use low carbon buses (including hybrid buses) on their local bus network.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Employment

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of people employed in the arts sector in each local authority area in the South West; and if he will make a statement. [34029]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not hold this information. However, Arts Council England has provided figures relating to the number of arts sector staff, in each employment category, in their Regularly Funded Organisations (RFOs). The 2009-10 figures for the south-west are set out in the table.

Local authority	*Permanent full-time*	*Permanent part-time*	*Contractual*
Bath	13	15	50
Bournemouth West	6	7	40
Bristol East	4	4	78
Bristol South	6	2	46
Bristol West	141	166	490
Cheltenham	54	88	98
Cotswold	7	32	85
Exeter	16	22	165
Falmouth and Camborne	5	13	33
Forest of Dean	0	4	17
Gloucester	6	29	99
Kingswood	6	15	17
North Devon	24	14	61
North Dorset	4	14	87
North Wiltshire	1	1	0
Plymouth, Devonport	0	2	0
Plymouth, Sutton	99	73	283
Poole	101	32	403
Salisbury	44	30	170
Somerton and Frome	5	10	53
South Swindon	9	7	131
St. Ives	8	9	37
Stroud	4	9	29
Taunton	1	2	29
Teignbridge	9	24	0
Tewkesbury	7	21	42
Tiverton and Honiton	2	1	0
Torridge and West Devon	9	12	35
Totnes	16	33	274
Truro and St. Austell	44	79	255
West Dorset	4	18	91
Westbury	5	5	19
Woodspring	3	1	0
Yeovil	6	11	22
Grand total	669	805	3,239

Broadband

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* homes and *(b)* businesses he expects to have access to superfast broadband by 2015; and if he will make a statement. [34058]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK is assessing the current broadband provision at community level in its work on delivering the coalition Government's superfast broadband and universal broadband access commitments.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the number of households with access to high-speed broadband in rural communities in England over each of the next five years. [34201]

Mr Vaizey: I have made no specific assessment of the numbers of households in rural areas that will have access to superfast broadband. It is the Government's aim that rural and remote areas should benefit from greater availability of superfast broadband access, as do more densely populated areas, in support of the goal of the UK having the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

Football

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent progress he has made on his proposals for the future of football governance; and if he will make a statement. [34364]

Hugh Robertson: I am continuing my discussions with the football authorities on further governance reform and a greater involvement for supporters at their local clubs, with a view to setting out a way forward in these areas by May as agreed in the Department's recent business plan.

Furthermore, the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee will also be conducting its own inquiry on these issues over the next few months.

We look forward to following the Committee's Inquiry and responding to their recommendations.

Football Foundation

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for future funding of the Football Foundation. [34030]

Hugh Robertson: Through Sport England, the Government will be investing £47 million into the Football Foundation for the period 2009 to 2013.

Along with the Football Association and the Premier League we remain key funding partners to the Foundation, which continues to help deliver new and improved community sports facilities in many towns and counties across the country.

Television: Licensing

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many times TV Licensing has written to an individual threatening *(a)* court action and *(b)* a fine for not buying a television licence where it has subsequently been revealed that the person in question (i) had already paid for a licence and (ii) did not have a television at the time in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [33856]

(2) how many formal complaints the BBC has received about TV Licensing writing to people threatening *(a)* court action and *(b)* a fine where it has subsequently been revealed that the person in question (i) had already paid for a licence and (ii) did not have a television at the time in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [33858]

Mr Vaizey: The BBC is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the television licensing system. It is independent of Government. I have therefore asked the BBC television licensing team to consider the question raised by the hon. Member for Dewsbury and to write to him direct.

A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of both Houses

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol and Drugs: Crime

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to police forces of *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug-related crimes in each of the last three years. [34002]

James Brokenshire: Following the review by Sir David Normington of data burdens placed by the Government on the police service, police cost estimates by crime type based on activity based costing (ABC) data are no longer collected centrally by the Home Office. 2007-08 is therefore the latest year for which these data are available.

Some incidences of acquisitive and violent crime are likely to be related to alcohol or drugs. However, ABC did not record whether violent and acquisitive offences were drug or alcohol-related. Spend on violent and acquisitive crimes is therefore presented here with no further break down.

Based on ABC, estimates of the cost to the police of dealing with acquisitive crime, violent crime and drug offences in 2007-08 are as follows:

	£ million
Drug offences	338
Violent crimes	913
Acquisitive crimes	1,268

These estimates include business support costs such as personnel and finance activities. Excluding business support costs results in the following estimates:

	£ million
Drug offences	266
Violent crimes	727
Acquisitive crimes	1,007

Crime prevention activity is excluded from these figures. Drug offences are only those directly related to the sale and possession of drugs. Violent crime includes more serious and less serious violence. Acquisitive crime includes burglary from a dwelling, burglary from commercial or other premises, robbery, theft of or from a motor vehicle, and other theft. Figures exclude data from Essex, Suffolk, Staffordshire and Thames Valley police forces, which are not available.

Asylum: Children

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were detained between the date of final determination of a family asylum claim and the date of deportation in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [34548]

Damian Green: The information requested is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Crossbows

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to regulate the sale and use of crossbows. [34122]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: The Crossbows Act 1987 made it an offence to sell or hire a crossbow to a person under the age of 17 and for a person under the age of 17 to purchase or possess a crossbow. Section 44 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 changed this to a person under the age of 18.

Darlington

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the effects on the local economy of closing her Department's offices in Darlington; and if she will publish a cost-benefit review of closure. [34239]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not have plans to close any of its offices in Darlington. The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), which is a non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Home Office, is located in Darlington.

The Vetting and Barring Scheme review, which is under way, will consider the role of the Independent Safeguarding Authority. There are no plans to close the ISA's offices and therefore a cost benefit review has not been commissioned or published.

Deportation: Human Rights

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deportations from the UK did not proceed as a consequence of the application of the provisions of *(a)* Article 3 and *(b)* Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights in each year since 2005; and if she will make a statement. [34146]

Damian Green: In responding to this question, we have assumed 'deportations' to mean 'removals'.

The UK Border Agency does not record this information centrally. Providing a breakdown of specific reasons for removals not to be pursued, either at initial decision stage or following a successful appeal, can only be determined by investigating individual case files which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employers have been prosecuted for employing non-EU students in breach of the conditions of their visa each year since 2001. [33731]

Damian Green: The information is not recorded centrally. to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Details of employers prosecuted under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 and section 21 of the Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2008 (employing illegal workers) are recorded on the National Operations Database (NOD). However, we only record the details of the offence against the employer and do not record how many of the illegal workers encountered or arrested were specifically non-EU students working in breach.

Details of the UK Border Agency prosecution cases for England and Wales are published by offence in the Control of Immigration Statistics which is available on the Home Office website at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1510.pdf

and a copy is available in the House Library.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the colleges on the sponsors list of the UK Border Agency were inspected prior to a licence being issued in the latest period for which figures are available. [33[illegible]32]

Damian Green: Of the educational institutions on the register of sponsors on 12 January 2011, 54% received a pre-licence visit by the UK Border Agency. The remaining 46% received a post-licence visit. Since May 2009 all educational institutions applying to become a sponsor receive a pre-licence visit.

Immigration Controls

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what impact assessment her Department has undertaken on the effect on scientists and researchers who will be transferred from Tier 1 to Tier 2 under the Government's proposed changes to the points-based immigration system. [33830]

Damian Green: The Government will give a degree of priority within the revised Tier 2 for high-level scientists and researchers.

We will also introduce a new Tier 1 route for people of exceptional talent, such as world-leading scientists and academics who have achieved international recognition or are likely to do so.

Details of the new arrangements will be published in due course.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has undertaken on the effect of the points-based immigration system on low-earning but highly-qualified scientists and researchers. [33832]

Damian Green: Over last summer we carried out a full public consultation on our proposed changes to the points-based system, to ensure that we took a wide range of views and evidence on board and into account. Details of the new Tier 1 route for people of exceptional talent will be published in due course.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to change the number of points allocated for *(a)* incomes and *(b)* qualifications under Tier 2 of the points-based immigration system. [33833]

Damian Green: We will publish full details of how the revised Tier 2 will operate in future in due course.

National Policing Improvement Agency: Fees and Charges

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has assessed the merits of charging police forces for activities that are carried out by the National Policing Improvement Agency. [31502]

Mrs May *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The National Policing Improvement Agency already charges police forces for some of its activities.

Neighbourhood Policing Fund

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department allocated to the Neighbourhood Policing Fund in 2009-10 and each year of the comprehensive spending review period using 2010-11 prices. [31504]

Mrs May *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The following table applies gross domestic product deflators to the Neighbourhood Policing Funding grants for 2009-10 and each year of the last comprehensive spending review period.

£ million

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Neighbourhood Policing Fund	324	332	341
Gross Domestic Product deflators	98.4	100.0	103.1
Neighbourhood Policing Fund in 2010-11 prices	339	343	341

Passports

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many free passports were issued to British citizens born before 2 September 1929 between March 2009 and March 2010; and whether her Department plans to extend the duration of the current scheme. [32774]

Damian Green *[holding answer 10 January 2011]:* Between March 2009 and March 2010, 71,311 applicants born before 2 September 1929 were issued with a British passport free of charge. This is a special concession for the Second World War generation in recognition of their contribution to the national effort during the war years. The current concession is not subject to an expiry date and there are no plans to limit its duration.

Passports: Lost Property

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many compensation claims were made to the UK Border Agency for loss of passports and other identity documents in each of the last three years; how many payments against such claims were made; and what the combined monetary value was of such payments. [34202]

Damian Green: Information relating to the number of compensation claims made to the UK Border Agency for loss of identity documents is not centrally recorded. Information for each of the last three years in relation to how many claims were made and the combined monetary value of payments is therefore not available.

Police: Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of installing automatic number plate recognition cameras in each police patrol car in each police force. [33223]

James Brokenshire: The use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology, including the number of police vehicles in which it is installed and the degree of investment in it, is an operational matter for individual police forces. This information is not centrally collated and no estimate has been made of the cost of installing ANPR in all police patrol vehicles.

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the cost to the public purse of supplying hand-held automatic number plate recognition devices to police forces and other appropriate agencies. [34150]

James Brokenshire: The acquisition and use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology, including any hand held devices, is an operational matter for individual police forces or other relevant agencies. The information necessary to provide an estimate of the costs of supplying such devices could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Police: Finance

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has allocated to each police force under the Forensic DNA Grant. [34032]

James Brokenshire: The Forensic DNA Grant has not existed as a specific grant since 2006-07 when it was amalgamated into Rule 2 grant. The amalgamated grant was assigned to each police authority with allocation based on actual provision in 2005-06.

The allocations for Rule 2 grant in 2006-07 can be found at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0506/hc08/0845/0845.pdf

For the provisional Police Grant Settlement for 2011-12, Rule 2 grant has been rolled into Police Main Grant to give police authorities, and thereafter police and crime commissioners, greater freedom and flexibility over their spending decisions.

Police: Roads

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has provided to police authorities on the issue of road closure notices under the Town and Police Clauses Act 1847. [34085]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has provided no such guidance.

Sham Marriage

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of individuals who obtained leave to remain as a result of sham weddings organised by Vladymyr Buchak. [34000]

Damian Green: Operation Gomozia was a major investigation carried out by the UK Border Agency as a result of suspicions being raised after a high number of immigration applications involving people who had married at the Church of St Peter and St Paul in St Leonards.

Of the 379 marriages that formed part of this investigation, current information shows that 81 non-European nationals were granted leave to remain. However, the UK Border Agency is still actively investigating all of these cases. Anyone who has gained leave as a result of this scam will have that leave revoked and will face removal from the UK.

Theft: Churches

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many thefts of building material from faith buildings in *(a)* England and *(b)* Leeds North West constituency have been recorded in the last five years. [34391]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not available from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

The recorded crime data collected within the Other Theft Group, as with all offence groups, are based on an aggregate count of offences which are defined by statute. Unless the offence specifies the item(s) stolen, e.g. theft of mail, or theft of pedal cycle, it would be recorded within the 'Other theft or unauthorised taking' classification. It is not possible to separately identify thefts of building material from this classification. Details on the specific type of building where the offence occurred are also not available from the recorded crime statistics.

PRIME MINISTER

Liu Xiaobo

Mr MacShane: To ask the Prime Minister whether he raised the issue of the continuing imprisonment of Liu Xiaobo directly and in person with the Vice-Premier of the People's Republic of China on 10 January 2010. [33627]

The Prime Minister: In my meeting with Vice-Premier Li, I discussed the full range of UK interests, including human rights. No subjects were off limits.

Office of UK Permanent Representative to EU

Mr Carswell: To ask the Prime Minister (1) if he will take steps to enable select committees to hold confirmation hearings before the appointment of each UK Permanent Representative to the EU; [33851]

(2) if he will consider the merits of appointing to the Cabinet the next UK Permanent Representative to the EU for the purpose of ensuring greater accountability of that representative to Parliament. [33853]

Mr Lidington: I have been asked to reply.

The post of UK Permanent Representative to the EU is being handled as part of a continuing appointments process to fill a number of senior diplomatic posts from within the civil service. Diplomatic service appointments of ambassadorial rank are agreed by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Prime Minister and made by Her Majesty the Queen. An announcement will be made once this process is complete. The Government do not propose to bring forward proposals to enable either the Foreign Affairs Select Committee or the European Scrutiny Committee to have the right to confirm the appointment of a new UK Permanent Representative to the European Union, or any other diplomatic service appointment. We do propose to continue the practice that political appointees to diplomatic service positions should appear before the Select Committee after their appointments have been made. It would not be appropriate to appoint the UK Permanent Representative to the Cabinet: Ministers are accountable to Parliament for all aspects of the Government's European policy.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Companies: Directors

Mrs Grant: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities (1) what steps she is taking to encourage FTSE 100 companies to include more women on their boards of directors; [33889]

(2) what estimate she has made of the percentage of members of executive boards that are women in UK-registered companies. [33896]

Lynne Featherstone: We have made no estimate of the percentage of members of executive boards that are women in UK-registered companies. The Female FTSE Report produced by the Cranfield School of Management provides a regular benchmarking measure of the number of women executive directors in the UK's top companies.

The 2010 report revealed that only 7.8% of directors of FTSE 250 companies are women[1].

A further recent and broad estimate of the proportion of women on boards across the UK corporate sector as a whole is approximately 7.8%[2].

Lord Davies has been appointed to look at how obstacles can be removed to allow more women to make it to the boardroom. Lord Davies is due to report with recommendations for an effective business led strategy shortly and we will respond to his recommendations in due course.

The further measures that we are taking on positive action, on flexible working, and on parental leave will also help address some of the barriers to progression that women face in the workplace.

[1] Source—Female FTSE Report, December 2010.

[2] Source—Women on Boards: A Statistical Review by Country, Region, Sector and Market Index; Governance Metrics International: March 2009.

Women's National Commission

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities which bodies are responsible for the discharge of functions formerly undertaken by the Women's National Commission. [33806]

Lynne Featherstone: We announced on 14 October 2010 that the core functions of the Women's National Commission (WNC) will be brought into the Government Equalities Office (GEO). This means that the work traditionally carried out by the WNC—ensuring that women's voices are heard at the centre of Government—will be carried out by the GEO.

GEO has now embarked upon developing a new approach to enable women and women's organisations to interact more closely and directly with Government. We will be consulting on the new approach early this year; this will include how we engage with former WNC partners and reach a wider range of women and women's organisations.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Specialist Fraud Investigation

9. **Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Attorney-General what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on specialist fraud investigation services. [33915]

The Solicitor-General: Over the course of the spending review period the Law Officers' Departments which play a part in tackling fraud—namely the Serious Fraud Office, the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Fraud Authority—will reduce overall spending by 25% in real terms. This is challenging, but presents an opportunity to rethink processes and organisational arrangements, without undermining frontline casework.

The Government have also made a commitment, confirmed in the coalition programme, to create a single Economic Crime Agency (ECA) to rationalise the current piecemeal law enforcement landscape. The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice, and I are actively engaged in this work. The ECA will be developed in parallel with the National Crime Agency, which will take the lead on organised crime.

National Fraud Authority

10. **Nick Smith:** To ask the Attorney-General what responsibilities the Law Officers' Departments have for the National Fraud Authority. [33916]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the oral question from the hon. Member for Edinburgh South (Ian Murray) today.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Attorney-General how many people recognised as trafficked under the national referral mechanism procedure were prosecuted for criminal offences by the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last three years. [34018]

The Attorney-General: The CPS has no records to identify how many people recognised as a trafficked victim under the national referral mechanism have been prosecuted for criminal offences in each of the last three years. The National Referral Mechanism was introduced on 1 April 2009, and up to 31 December 2010, 1,254 referrals have been made for potential victims of trafficking.

Prosecutions: Crime

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Attorney-General how many prosecutions were *(a)* initiated and *(b)* brought to court for (i) perverting the course of justice, (ii) perjury and (iii) wasting police time following the withdrawal of a complaint of rape or domestic violence in the (A) last six months for which figures are available and (B) previous six months. [33963]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) data systems record offences charged and reaching a first hearing in a magistrates court, and include offences of perverting the course of public justice; perjury; and wasting police time. However, the CPS data systems are not capable of identifying whether such cases were charged following the withdrawal of a complaint of rape or domestic violence or any other offence.

In December 2010, in order to provide the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) with a snapshot of the number of prosecutions of complainants who had made allegations of rape for perverting or attempting to pervert the course of public justice, all CPS areas undertook a trawl of cases. This identified 113 cases in 2010 involving the consideration of prosecuting a person who had made a rape allegation for perverting or attempting to pervert the course of justice. Of those, 61 were prosecuted and convicted; seven were unsuccessful prosecutions (which includes the case being discontinued by the prosecution or acquitted by a jury); and 45 were recorded as 'other' which included cases that were awaiting trial and cases that were not yet charged.

JUSTICE

Approved Premises: Community Orders

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much funding his Department allocated to each probation trust for the administration, running and management of approved premises for offenders serving community orders in the last year for which figures are available; [33706]

(2) what the average cost was of a place in an approved premises for an offender serving a community order in 2009-10. [33707]

Mr Blunt: Approved premises accept prisoners released on licence, offenders on community sentences and bailees. These are not differentiated in funding terms, so it is not possible to give specific figures for residents serving community sentences.

The funding allocated to each Probation Trust in 2010-11 for the running of approved premises is set out in the following table. In addition to those run by Probation Trusts, 11 approved premises are operated by independent third-sector organisations, and these are shown in the table.

The grant for approved premises in 2009-10 equated to an average £26,600 per bed space. More than one resident will occupy a single bed space in approved premises over the course of a year, with an average stay per resident of 74.7 days in March 2010 and 70.8 days in November 2010.

Approved premises provide for enhanced supervision, particularly of high risk of harm offenders on release from custody. It would be much more difficult to provide that level of supervision, were such offenders to be dispersed into less suitable accommodation in the community on release from custody.

	Allocation (£)
Probation trust	
Avon and Somerset	1,516,000
Bedfordshire	1,119,000
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	604,000
Cheshire	1,088,000
Cumbria	545,000
Derbyshire	569,000
Devon and Cornwall	995,000
Dorset	1,023,000
Durham Tees Valley	1,024,000
Essex	557,000
Gloucestershire	487,000
Greater Manchester	3,983,000
Hampshire	1,596,000
Humberside	1,032,000
Kent	579,000
Lancashire	1,070,000
Leicestershire and Rutland	1,052,000
Lincolnshire	502,000
London	5,731,000
Merseyside	1,577,000
Norfolk and Suffolk	1,580,000
Northamptonshire	535,000
Northumbria	1,037,000
Nottinghamshire	1,470,000
South Yorkshire	1,671,000
Staffordshire West Midlands	5,152,000
Surrey and Sussex	980,000
Thames Valley	2,678,000
Wales	2,183,000
Warwickshire	1,007,000
West Mercia	496,000
West Yorkshire	2,461,000
York and North Yorkshire	540,000
Independent operators	6,795,000

Burglary: Sentencing

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 263W, on burglary offences: custodial sentences, what proportion of custodial sentences for burglary offences were suspended sentences in 2009. [34334]

Mr Blunt: There were 22,758 offenders sentenced for burglary in 2009 of which 44% were given an immediate custody and 10% were given a suspended sentence.

This information can be found in Sentencing Statistics 2009, supplementary tables la available at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

Please note that court proceedings data for 2010 are planned to be published in the spring.

Citizens Advice Bureaux

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of his Department's legal aid budget was allocated to *(a)* solicitors, *(b)* Citizens Advice Bureaux and *(c)* other organisations providing legal advice in the last financial year for which figures are available. [33693]

Mr Djanogly: During 2009-10, the last financial year for which figures are available, £2.1 billion was spent on legal aid. Of this, £295 million was spent on legal help, which is the level of service under which legal advice is provided in civil matters. The following table shows the proportion of legal help spent on solicitor firms, the CAB and other organisations.

Type of legal aid provider	*Total legal help spend (£ million)*	*Proportion of legal help budget (percentage)*
Solicitors	178.6	60
Citizens Advice Bureau	25.9	9
Other	90.8	31
Total	295.3	100

The figures for solicitors include disbursements, which are paid to solicitors but may then be paid on to other organisations.

The figures for 'Other' include not-for-profit organisations, Community Legal Advice Centres, and telephone advice.

All figures are inclusive of VAT.

Community Orders: Reoffenders

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders carrying out unpaid work under community orders were sent back to prison following breaches of the conditions of their order in 2009-10. [33705]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Although statistics are collected on the number of unpaid work requirements which fail to complete and on the number of prison receptions for breach of a community order or suspended sentence order, the two data sets are separate and it would require a time-consuming data-matching exercise to combine them and calculate the number of receptions into custody which were specifically related to breach of an order with an unpaid work requirement.

In 2009-10 23,251 unpaid work requirements attached to community orders and suspended sentence orders were revoked for failure to comply or for conviction of a further offence.

Data published for the calendar year 2009 show that 3,996 persons were received into prison establishments in England and Wales for breach of a community sentence and 4,361 for breach of a suspended sentence[1].

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

[1] Source:

Table 6.9, Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009, Ministry of Justice

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Courts

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely cost of extending the virtual court system to some or all magistrates courts following the pilot scheme. [33666]

Mr Djanogly: An assessment has not been made in relation to the cost of extending the virtual court as tests are ongoing to examine how a cost-effective operating model might be developed.

Crime

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice by what date he proposes to end automatic escalation of out-of-court disposals in cases where young people have committed low-level crime. [34111]

Mr Blunt: The Government published the Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle" on 7 December 2010. This consultation document includes proposals to end automatic escalation in youth out-of-court disposals, and a decision will be made following the close of this consultation. Any change on this policy would require primary legislation.

Custody: Death

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on procedures associated with deaths in custody including *(a)* investigations by the Prison and Probation Ombudsman, *(b)* inquests and *(c)* other follow-up action in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [33773]

Mr Blunt: The information in the following table shows the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's average cost of an investigation into a death for each financial year since 2007-08. Also shown is the number of death in prison custody investigations for each financial year since 2007-08.

Data on PPO death investigations

	Average cost of a death investigation (£)	*Number of death in prison custody investigations*
2007-08	17,153	183
2008-09	16,436	164
2009-10	16,239	179

Information about the procedural costs incurred on inquests by local authorities, who are responsible for funding the coroner system, is not held centrally

The procedural costs for any follow up actions related to deaths in prison custody in each financial year since 2007-08 are unknown and can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost of legal representation of the Government at inquests into all cases where the state is represented including *(a)* deaths in custody, *(b)* deaths of military personnel on active service and *(c)* hospital deaths in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10; and how much his Department spent on legal aid for families of the deceased in such cases. [33774]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry does not have oversight of the provision of legal advice to the Government as a whole and as such the Ministry does not hold information on the cost of legal advice to other departments. The estimated cost of the provision of legal advice and representation of the Government at inquests following the deaths of military personnel on active service and hospital deaths are matters for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Department for Health (DoH) respectively.

The Ministry does, however, have responsibility for the welfare of prisoners, and, as such, it has obtained legal advice and representation from the Treasury Solicitor's Department and Counsel at inquests following the deaths of prisoners in custody. These costs came to £1.8 million in 2007-08; £2.2 million in 2008-09 and £2.7 million in 2009-10.

Legal aid funding for inquests is not within scope of the legal aid scheme. Nevertheless, under the Access to Justice Act 1999, the Lord Chancellor has the power to authorise the Legal Services Commission to grant exceptional legal aid funding in cases which are not within the scope of the civil legal aid scheme. The total amount spent on exceptional funding was £1.1 million in 2007-08; £1.5 million in 2008-09 and £1.6 million in 2009-10. While most of the applications for exceptional funding are for inquests, it is not possible to disaggregate the expenditure on inquests from the total amount spent on exceptional funding.

Drug: Offences

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions in the London borough of Bexley for drug-related offences resulted in prison sentences in the last three years for which figures are available. [33583]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody for drug offences in the Metropolitan police force area, for the years 2007 to 2009 (latest available) are presented in the table.

Information at borough level is not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody for drug offences in the Metropolitan police force area, for the years 2007-09[1] [2]

Metropolitan police force area	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
2007	10,083	1,687
2008	12,276	1,924
2009	12,694	1,917

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Ford Prison

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the operating cost of HM Prison Ford was in each of the last 10 years; [34114]

(2) what the cost to the public purse per prisoner place at HM Prison Ford was in each of the last 10 years. [34149]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the direct establishment expenditure and the corresponding cost per prison place and per prisoner at HMP Ford for each of the last 10 years:

HMP Ford

£

	Direct establishment expenditure	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
2008-09	8,705,446	15,629	16,254
2007-08	8,317,316	15,346	17,334
2006-07	7,676,459	14,189	17,988
2005-06	7,615,456	14,077	14,905
2004-05	8,155,014	15,074	15,653
2003-04	7,751,286	14,328	15,276
2002-03	7,235,485	13,457	14,549
2001-02	6,151,773	12,279	14,968
2000-01	5,815,820	11,608	16,114
1999-2000	5,957,172	11,891	16,039

The costs comprise the establishment's direct resource expenditure as published in HM Prison Service (HMPS) annual report and accounts, and for 2008-09 with the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) annual report and accounts. This is only expenditure met locally at the establishment.

For 2007-08 and 2008-09 an overall cost per place/prisoner which also includes prison related costs met by NOMS at regional and national level has been calculated as follows:

HMP Ford

£

	Overall expenditure	*Overall cost per place*	*Overall cost per prisoner*
2008-09	15,554,845	27,926	29,043
2007-08	12,868,853	23,743	26,819

The overall average cost for 2007-08 and 2008-09 comprises the direct establishment expenditure, (as recorded in the HMPS and NOMS Agency annual report and accounts), increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by HMPS and NOMS. This involves some estimation. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. Health and Education). Prisoner escort service costs are included.

Care should be taken in making comparisons over years as there may be changes in scope and accounting treatment that affect comparability.

Cost per prison place is expressed in terms of the certified normal accommodation number of places, which in this case gives a lower unit cost than the cost per prisoner.

Ford Prison

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners at HM Prison Ford were serving a sentence of four years or more on 31 December 2010; [33689]

(2) how many prisoners at HM Prison Ford were serving sentences for *(a)* drug offences and *(b)* violent offences on 31 December 2010; [33690]

(3) how many prisoners at HM Prison Ford were serving sentences of more than four years for *(a)* drug offences and *(b)* violence on 31 December 2010; and how many such prisoners had more than two years of their sentences remaining; [33691]

(4) how many prisoners that were transferred to HM Prison Ford had more than *(a)* two, *(b)* three and *(c)* four years of their sentences remaining in the last year for which figures are available. [33692]

Mr Blunt: The following tables provide relevant information on the prison population for HMP Ford as at 31 December 2010 relating to sentence length and offence type.

However to establish transfer of prisoners to HMP Ford would involve disproportionate cost. Prisoners are not generally allocated to open prisons with more than two years to serve to their expected release date.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table A: Prison population in HMP Ford, by sentence length, on 31 December 2010

	Population
Sentence length of four years or more	222
Indeterminate sentences	67

Notes:
1. The figures exclude those recalled to prison.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Source:
Further breakdown of the prison population as published in the 31 December 2010 NOMS 'Prison Population and Accommodation Briefing'.

Table B: Prison population in HMP Ford, by specific offence group, on 31 December 2010

	Population
Drug offences	146
Violence against the person	115

Notes:
1. The figures include recalls and indeterminate sentences.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Source:
Further breakdown of the prison population as published in the 31 December 2010 NOMS 'Prison Population and Accommodation Briefing'.

Table C: Prison population in HMP Ford, by sentence length and specific offence group, on 31 December 2010

	Sentence length of four years or more	*Those with more than two years to serve*
Drug offences	113	2
Violence against the person	32	0

Notes:
1. The figures include immediate custodial sentenced prisoners and those recalled to prison.
2. We provided sentence length of four years or more in order to be consistent with the content of our publication.
3. Prisoners are not generally allocated to open prisons with more than two years to serve to their expected release date. Both of the drugs cases with more than two years to serve have less than three years to serve.
4. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Source:
Further breakdown of the prison population as published in the 31 December 2010 NOMS 'Prison Population and Accommodation Briefing'.

Ford Prison

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes there have been to the *(a)* certified normal accommodation and *(b)* operational capacity at HM Prison Ford in the last 10 years. [34148]

Mr Blunt: The certified normal accommodation (CNA) at HMP Ford was 501 in December 2000, providing an operational capacity of 501 places. At the end of December 2010, the number of places had increased to a certified normal accommodation (CNA) of 557, providing an operational capacity of 557 places.

Offenders: Mental Illness

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of offenders with mental health disorders who will require treatment in the community as a result of his proposals to reduce the prison population. [34039]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice estimate, that as a result of full implementation of mental health liaison and diversion policies in police stations and courts, annually between 3,000-10,000 people might be diverted away from short prison sentences, instead being suitable for treatment by community mental health services, in the majority of cases in combination with a community sentence.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of offender cases referred to mental health services; and what support he plans to offer to young offenders who are unable to access an appropriate mental health service. [34110]

Mr Blunt: I understand the hon. Member's question to refer to an increase in the number of offender cases referred to mental health services.

The Government are committed to diverting mentally ill offenders from the criminal justice system where appropriate and increasing access to mental health services. In particular proposals about the NHS making available mental health liaison and diversion services at police stations and courts by 2014, for young and adult offenders, are set out in "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders" published by the Ministry of Justice in December 2010.

The cross-Government Mental Health Strategy, due to be launched by the Department of Health on 24 January 2011, aims to improve mental health outcomes for people of all ages, including offenders. It will take a life course approach and prioritise early intervention.

Prisoners

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost per prisoner to his Department is of a category C prisoner in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [33715]

Mr Blunt: The average direct establishment cost per prisoner and per prison place in category C establishments is as follows:

Direct public sector establishment expenditure 2008-09

Category C establishments	*£*
Cost per prisoner	22,713
Cost per prison place	23,541

The costs comprise the public sector establishments' direct resource expenditure as published in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) annual report and accounts. This is only expenditure met locally at each establishment.

The costs represent the total cost per place/prisoner at each prison where the majority use at the end of each year was for category C prisoners. There is no adjustment for prisons holding prisoners of more than one category.

For 2008-09 an overall cost per place/prisoner which also includes prison related costs met by NOMS at regional and national level has been calculated as follows:

Total overall cost of public and private establishments 2008-09

Category C establishments	*£*
Cost per prisoner	36,330
Cost per prison place	37,656

The overall average cost for 2008-09 comprises the expenditure on public and private prisons (as recorded in the NOMS agency annual report and accounts), increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by NOMS. This involves some estimation. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (eg Health and Education). The prisoner escort service costs are included. Expenditure recharged to the Youth Justice Board in respect of young people is included.

Cost per prison place is expressed in terms of the certified normal accommodation number of places; this gives a higher unit cost than the cost per prisoner.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoner places have been destroyed or otherwise put out of use as a result of recent disturbances at *(a)* HM Prison Ford, *(b)* HM Prison Doncaster Moorland and *(c)* HM Prison Littlehey. [34615]

Mr Blunt: As a result of the recent concerted indiscipline at the three establishments 61 places were lost at Ford, 265 at Moorland and none at Littlehey.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been moved away from *(a)* HM Prison Ford, *(b)* HM Prison Doncaster Moorland and *(c)* HM Prison Littlehey as a result of recent disturbances. [34616]

Mr Blunt: As at result of the Ford disturbance 86 prisoners have been transferred out. Following the Moorland disturbances 252 prisoners were transferred out and subsequently 23 prisoners were transferred out as a precaution against further incidents. 10 prisoners were transferred from HMP Littlehey.

Prisoners' Release

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to review the criteria by which parole boards assess risk to the public when considering release of prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection. [33601]

Mr Blunt: We are conducting an assessment of sentencing to ensure that it is effective in deterring crime, protecting the public, punishing offenders and cutting reoffending. On 7 December we published proposals in the Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders", for public consultation. These proposals included the reform of sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPPs).

As now, offenders who have completed their minimum term will still have to undergo a risk assessment before being considered for release, and the Parole Board will consider whether each individual case is suitable for release on licence. We are, however, proposing to make amendments to the risk test used by the Parole Board, so that the Parole Board will need to satisfy themselves that the offender presents a risk which cannot be managed in the community. These proposals have been published on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gov.uk

Prisoners' Release: Rehabilitation

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection have taken part in a rehabilitation programme to address offending behaviour before reaching their tariff date. [33603]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not hold a central record of the dates that individual prisoners serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) undertook accredited programmes. It is, therefore, not possible to identify the proportion of prisoners who had undertaken a programme prior to tariff expiry.

NOMS has implemented a range of measures to improve the progression of indeterminate sentence prisoners through the prison system, particularly short tariff prisoners, and an additional £3 million allocation was made in each of the last three years to establishments to support work with this group of prisoners, with a view to ensuring assessments are made on time and to improving access to interventions.

Prisoners' Release: Reoffenders

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 191W, on prisoners' release: reoffenders, what the baseline figure is from which the reduction in reconvictions which will trigger payments to social bond investors is to be measured. [34614]

Mr Blunt: The Social Impact Bond will work with up to 3,000 adult male short-sentenced prisoners discharged from HMP Peterborough, in three cohorts each comprised of approximately 1,000 offenders.

The baseline will be calculated by an independent assessor, the contract for which is currently being let by the Ministry of Justice. This assessor will calculate the total frequency of reconviction events for the offenders in each Social Impact Bond cohort, during the 12 months following their release. This will be compared with the frequency of conviction events over the same time period for a comparison group of 10,000 offenders released from other prisons, who are identified by the independent assessor as having similar characteristics to the Peterborough offenders.

Prisons: Closures

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what reduction in prison capacity will be attributable to the closure of *(a)* HM Prison Lancaster Castle, *(b)* HM Prison Ashwell and *(c)* HM Prison Morton Hall. [34617]

Mr Blunt: The closure of prisons Lancaster Castle and Ashwell and the change of use of Morton Hall to an immigration removal centre, to be operated by the National Offender Management Service on behalf of the UK Border Agency, will reduce our current prison capacity by 849 places:

Establishment	*Current operational capacity*
Ashwell	214
Lancaster Castle	243
Morton Hall	392

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the projected savings are from the closure of *(a)* HM Prison Lancaster Castle, *(b)* HM Prison Ashwell and *(c)* HM Prison Morton Hall. [34618]

Mr Blunt: On 13 January 2011, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice announced the closure of Lancaster and Ashwell prisons and the change of use of Morton Hall prison to an immigration removal centre, to be operated by the National Offender Management Service Agency on beh[illegible] of the UK Border Agency.

Until the final outturn costs for site decommissioning, disposal or transfer are known, it is not possible to provide full figures for the savings from the prisons in question. However, in the last financial year, the operating costs for these sites were around £25 million (£10 million at Ashwell, £6.5 million at Lancaster Castle and £8.5 million at Morton Hall) which indicate a potential saving of up to this figure could be made.

Prisons: Finance

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding he has allocated to *(a)* prison psychology, *(b)* prison probation and *(c)* prison education services in 2010-11; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in each of the next four years. [33602]

Mr Blunt: The specific budget for public sector prisons allocated to prison psychology services in the 2010-11 financial year was £85.5 million. However, additional funding would have been included in the budgets for individual programmes and cannot be identified separately.

The budget for public sector prisons allocated to prison probation for the reimbursement of costs for seconded probation officers in the 2010-11 financial year was £11.4 million.

Budgets for prison psychology and prison probation for the next four years have yet to be determined.

Responsibility for the funding of prisoner education in England rests with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). BIS are still working through the detail of the comprehensive spending review and information will be announced as soon as possible.

In 2010-11, BIS plans to spend £171 million on offender learning in English public sector prisons. This includes spend associated with the employment of heads of learning and skills in prisons, libraries and higher education in public sector prisons in England and a small amount in private sector prisons.

In addition £2.4 million is allocated for education in public sector prisons in Wales.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) provides both physical resources and staff to support educational activities for prisoners. It is not possible to separately identify these costs which are not held centrally. Education in private prisons is largely run in house and the full costs are not available.

Training for prisoners is undertaken, mainly by Prison Service staff, while prisoners work or are engaged in various areas such as prison industries, catering, physical education, land based activities, industrial cleaning and laundries. The central costs of the training elements of these, mainly production functions, are not kept centrally.

NOMS gained co-financing organisation status in January 2009 and successfully bid for a total of £50 million of European social funding to enhance the skills and employment services to offenders in prison and the community. NOMS has been granted the funding over 27 months to increase offenders' employability and improve their access to mainstream support provision. Funding has been extended into a second phase up to 2013.

Prisons: Personnel

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many governors of prisons have left HM Prison Service to take up employment in the private sector since 1 January 2009. [34256]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not keep records of employment taken up by former prison governors after they have resigned or retired from the service. We are aware that a small number of senior managers resigned from NOMS in 2010 to take up posts in the private sector, including the governors of Holloway, Whitemoor, Moorland and Isle of Wight. There may have been others who joined private sector providers but there is no requirement for those resigning or retiring to advise the service of their future employment plans.

Prisons: Private Sector

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many jails in England and Wales are run by private sector companies; and what the name is of each such company. [34257]

Mr Blunt: 11 prisons in England and Wales are run by private sector companies. The companies running these prisons are Sodexo Justice Services, G4S and Serco.

Prison	*Private sector provider*
HMP Altcourse	G4S
HMP Ashfield	Serco
HMP Bronzefield	Sodexo Justice Services
HMP and YOI Doncaster	Serco
HMP Dovegate	Serco
HMP/YOI Forest Bank	Sodexo Justice Services
HMP Lowdham Grange	Serco
HMP/YOI Parc	G4S
HMP Peterborough	Sodexo Justice Services
HMP Rye Hill	G4S
HMP Wolds	G4S

Probation

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future role of probation services and trusts. [33990]

Mr Blunt: In the Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders", we announced that we would fundamentally reshape probation services to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, empower front-line professionals and make them more accountable.

We will do this by reforming the way in which probation trusts are managed; reviewing targets and standards to ensure greater flexibility and professional discretion; considering the scope and value of different business models, such as public sector workers forming employee-owned co-operatives; and reforming the National Offender Management Service to reduce costs and enable effective local commissioning in the longer term.

Reparation By Offenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of central commissioning on local Community Payback schemes. [33667]

Mr Blunt: The specifications for the current Community Payback competition stipulate that a provider will ensure that the local community is able to express their views about the type of work that is undertaken and provide local forums with regular updates about the progress of projects. Liaison must also take place with the local Probation Trust and other relevant local bodies to engage in discussion concerning local requirements for Community Payback projects.

Sexual Offences

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who were originally convicted of *(a)* sexual and *(b)* violent offences are resident in approved premises in England and Wales. [34255]

Mr Blunt: The number of *(a)* sexual and *(b)* violent offenders accommodated in approved premises in England and Wales will vary from time to time. Statistical information about the offending history of offenders residing in approved premises at any one time is not collected centrally, although offenders' assessed level of risk of harm at the point of admission is.

Approved premises provide for enhanced supervision, particularly of high risk of harm offenders on release from custody. It would be much more difficult to provide that level of supervision, were such offenders to be dispersed into less suitable accommodation in the community on release from custody.

Wills

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the *(a)* drafting requirement and *(b)* parliamentary time required for the enactment of legislative provisions to regulate will writing. [33740]

Mr Djanogly: In order for will writing to become regulated, it is likely that primary legislation would be required. In order for will writing to become a reserved activity under the Legal Services Act 2007 (LSA), secondary legislation would be required.

Since the Legal Services Board (LSB) is currently investigating whether or not it would be in the interests of the legal consumer to regulate will writing, it will be more appropriate to await the outcome of that investigation before making an assessment of next steps. Although the activity itself is not regulated, under the LSA authorised persons that provide will writing services, like solicitors, are regulated by their approved regulator.

Young Offender Institutions

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost was of a place in a *(a)* young offenders secure unit and *(b)* young offender institution in 2009-10. [33626]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 865-67W, to the hon. Member for Maidstone and the Weald (Mrs Grant) and specifically to the information contained therein on the average annual cost per place in a young offender institution holding 15 to 18-year-olds at 1 April 2009.

Young people in custody can also be placed in secure training centres and secure children's homes. The following table provides the average annual cost per place in a secure training centre and a secure children's home at 1 April 2009. The information includes the cost to the Youth Justice Board of providing these places and excludes VAT.

	Average annual cost per place at 1 April 2009 (nearest £000)
Secure training centre	160,000
Secure children's home	215,000

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animals: Antibiotics

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of antibiotics was administered to *(a)* domestic and *(b)* farmed animals in relation to the amount administered to the human population in the last 12 months. [33784]

Mr Paice: The most recent data comparing the use of antimicrobials in human and veterinary medicine are from 2007. The report "Overview of Antimicrobial Usage and Bacterial Resistance in Selected Human and Animal Pathogens in the UK: 2007", published in March 2010, shows that in 2007 in the UK:

335 tonnes of antimicrobial active ingredient were sold for animals reared for food;

34 tonnes were sold for use in domestic animals; and

19 tonnes were sold in veterinary medicines authorised for both farmed and domestic animals.

For human use in the same period:

73 tonnes were prescribed in hospitals in England and Wales (no data were available for Scotland and Northern Ireland in 2007);

337 tonnes were prescribed in the community in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during 2007; and

41 tonnes were prescribed in the community in Scotland between April 2007 and March 2008.

Bees: Pesticides

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to deter the use of chemicals and pesticides harmful to bees. [33860]

Mr Paice: Controls on pesticides work at a number of levels, initially by identifying the hazard potential, then by assessing and managing risk. Under European legislation, pesticide active substances are first evaluated at community level. A key part of this process is an assessment of the risks to bees. If an active substance meets the EU safety requirements then products containing that active substance can be authorised at member state level, taking into account that country's individual agronomic, climatic and dietary requirements.

In the UK, pesticide products can only be sold or used after they have been authorised. As part of this process, the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive (the Government body responsible for regulating pesticides) undertakes an assessment of the toxicity of each product and the ways in which spray operators, the public or environment (in particular honey bees) may be exposed. The purpose being to ensure that the use of the product poses no unacceptable risks.

The controls extend to the use of products and CRD routinely restricts the way products can be used (e.g. specifying dose rates, timing and place of application) to ensure protection of human health and the environment. Users are also legally obliged to take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of human beings, creatures and plants. Advice on how this can be done is set out in a statutory "Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products" which, amongst other things, contains guidance on minimising the exposure of bees to pesticides.

Biodiversity

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she next expects to report on progress towards achieving each of the 2010 targets for priority species and habitats contained in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. [33687]

Richard Benyon: The four Administrations of the UK plan to undertake separate, national assessments on the 2010 targets. The timing is a matter for the respective devolved Administrations. In England, the aim is to initiate this work in 2011. The approach and extent of the assessments is expected to vary between each country.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her most recent assessment is of progress towards achieving the targets contained in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan in respect of *(a)* maintenance of the extent of lowland raised bog, *(b)* an increase of 3,784 hectares on the extent of lowland heathland, *(c)* maintenance of the extent of intertidal sediment saltmarsh and mudflat ecosystems, *(d)* re-establishment of 800 hectares of coastal and flood plain grazing marsh of wildlife value from appropriate land sources, *(e)* re-establishment of 8,426 hectares of lowland calcareous grassland of wildlife value from arable or improved grassland, *(f)* restoration of 26,880 hectares of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites to native woodland and *(g)* restoration of 1,736 hectares of lowland meadow from semi-improved and neglected grassland by 2010. [33688]

Richard Benyon: Progress towards the UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets for 2010 was last assessed in 2008 by the UK Biodiversity Partnership. The assessments for the habitat targets mentioned were as follows:

(a) Maintenance of the extent of lowland raised bog: target not achieved. 32,806 ha was reported to have been maintained.

(b) An increase of 3,784 ha on the extent of lowland heathland: some progress but target not achieved. 1858 ha was reported to have been created.

(c) Maintenance of the extent of intertidal sediment saltmarsh and mudflat ecosystems: 2008 value was not known for the UK, but the England figure was reported as 204,000 ha.

(d) Re-establishment of 800 ha of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh: exceeded. An estimated 11,001 ha was reported to have been created.

(e) Re-establishment of 8,426 ha of lowland calcareous grassland: some progress but target not achieved. Over 300 ha was reported to have been created in England.

(f) Restoration of 26,880 ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites to native woodland: some progress. 5,442 ha was reported to have been restored with a further 4,233 under way in Wales so target not achieved.

(g) Restoration of 1,736 ha of lowland meadow: some progress, however the restoration will take many years and no specific figures were reported on the Biodiversity Actions Reporting System (BARS).

Assessments for all other targets can be found at the Biodiversity Actions Reporting System website.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Compensation

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial compensation is available to farmers who lose cattle from a rare breed of bovine tuberculosis. [33662]

Mr Paice: The Cattle Compensation (England) Order 2006 sets out how compensation is determined for all TB affected cattle. Since February 2006, compensation in England has been determined primarily using table values, which reflect the average open market sale prices of bovine animals in 47 different categories. The categories are based on the animal's age, gender, type (dairy or beef) and status (i.e. pedigree (including rare pedigree breeds) or non-pedigree).

Carbon

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to introduce mandatory carbon reporting for companies by 2012; and if she will make a statement. [34117]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright) on 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 319W.

Common Agricultural Policy

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's objectives are for the forthcoming negotiations on the common agricultural policy. [33648]

Mr Paice: The UK wants to see a competitive, thriving and sustainable EU agriculture and food sector that is able to rise to the challenges and opportunities of the future. We therefore need ambitious reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP) to deliver good value for farmers, taxpayers, consumers and the environment.

Future agriculture policy must have viable, competitive farming at its heart, building a stronger European agricultural sector that is free to farm and able to compete in global markets. With intense pressures on public finances, there should be a substantial cut to the CAP Budget. Future expenditure must be well targeted, delivering measurable outputs that offer real value for money and societal benefits that the market place cannot provide. It should tackle the key objectives of encouraging a competitive, sustainable EU agriculture sector, reducing reliance on subsidies and focusing resources on the provision of environmental public goods. This must be underpinned by further simplification of the CAP and reduction of regulatory burdens.

Common Fisheries Policy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had on reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. [33837]

Richard Benyon: I have had discussions with a range of organisations and people about Common Fisheries Policy reform, including the EU Fisheries Commissioner, MEPs, representatives of the fishing industry, processors, retailers, and non-government organisations.

I will continue to engage with, and seek contributions from, stakeholders in advance of publication of the EU Commission's proposals for reform in early summer.

Drinking Water: Sales

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects on the environment of recent trends in bottled water sales; and if she will make a statement. [34023]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has not carried out any recent research on this topic. A 2009 report by the Sustainable Development Commission, called "Setting the Table: Advice to Government on Priority elements of Sustainable Diets" included some analysis of a possible guideline about reducing consumption of bottled water (Guideline 10 in the report). This concluded that reliable research and evidence regarding the overall impacts of bottled water was not available. DEFRA recognises the work the industry is doing to achieve high standards of sustainability in what it does.

Environmental and Sustainable Development Policy

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure environmental and sustainable development policy is mainstreamed in the work of other Government Departments. [34152]

Mr Paice: We are considering the recommendations of the recent Environmental Audit Committee report on embedding sustainable development across Government, and will announce details of our approach in the coming weeks.

Fisheries: Quotas

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she last met her European counterparts to discuss the discarding of fish. [33835]

Richard Benyon: As UK Fisheries Minister, I lead on discussions with our European counterparts on the discarding of fish. At the Fisheries Council in December 2010, I negotiated with the European Commission and member states to agree fishing opportunities for 2011. The need to find solutions to the problem of discarding formed an important part of those negotiations.

There will be further discussions this year with member states and the Commission on the topic of minimising discards, and the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy in 2012. The UK will continue to lead the way within the EU on finding practical solutions to the discard issue.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the *(a)* weight and *(b)* retail value of edible fish discarded by UK fishermen due to their being over-quota in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [33836]

Richard Benyon: The total discard estimate in 2009 (the latest period for which figures are available for those fisheries sampled in UK) is 51,179 tonnes. There are many reasons explaining these discards; however, the current system for recording catch and discard data do not allow us to differentiate (year on year) why each fish is discarded. Despite this, CEFAS analysis, conducted in 2010 on the 2008 English and Welsh discard data, estimated that;

> 54% (13,230 tonnes) of total discards were discarded for reasons relating to weak/absent markets (i.e. non-quota species).
>
> Quota constraints were estimated to account for 22% (5,390 tonnes) of discards (i.e. quota species above the legal minimum landing size)
>
> 24% (5,880 tonnes) of total discards were quota species below the legal minimum landing size (MLS) and were too small to land.

High grading is another type of discarding where fishermen try to optimise the value of their catches by keeping the good value fish and discarding the poorer value ones. This creates a financial profit for fishermen but is still a waste of legally landable fish. A European high grading ban is in place in waters around the UK to prevent this behaviour. The extent of high grading has not been successfully separated from estimates for other types of discarding. Other types of discarding, such as unmarketable species, over quota and under MLS may represent a loss of value to the fishermen and from the fishery.

Because discard estimates 1997-2010 have not undergone the same analysis as 2008 data, estimates of the financial impacts of discards for the British fleet as a whole are unreliable. To simply use the average market value of all fish species as a multiplier would give an inaccurate estimate of the financial impact of discards.

We do, however, have a more robust study underway looking at the economic impact of discarding fish.

Food: Labelling

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of food labelling practices in the meat and poultry supply industries. [34158]

Mr Paice: The food industry has always shown itself to be adaptable and flexible to its customers' demands and much progress has already been made in providing more and better information on food labels. However, we recognise that more could be done to ensure origin information is provided on products of interest to consumers, such as fresh meat.

Discussions in the EU on a new Food Information Regulation are ongoing. The UK supported the extension of compulsory origin labelling to all fresh meat, a review of extending origin labelling for other foods, and a requirement for origin information to be given for main ingredients when origin claims are made. Member states have reached political agreement on the text, which will now be sent to the European Parliament for further consideration. We do not expect the regulation to be adopted and published until early 2012.

In the meantime, we continue to work with the food industry, retailers and others to encourage better labelling. Voluntary principles on country of origin labelling, developed by industry and facilitated by DEFRA, were launched on 24 November and have been agreed by trade associations representing manufacturers, retailers and the food service sector. All of the major supermarkets have signed up to this approach and many individual businesses already provide excellent origin information. These principles formalise and strengthen the current labelling practices of many businesses. As part of the Structural Form Plan, DEFRA will be carrying out an assessment of current origin labelling practices in the UK during the first half of this year.

National Parks

Mr Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what decisions about governance arrangements for National Parks have been made ahead of the closure of the current consultation; and if she will make a statement. [34079]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: No decisions on the governance arrangement for national parks will be made until after the consultation has closed on 1 February and the responses have been carefully considered.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to publish the results of her Department's research project on beak trimming of hens; and if she will make a statement. [34240]

Mr Paice: The three-year intervention study by Bristol university on strategies to reduce the need for beak trimming is not being funded by DEFRA but by the Tubney Trust.

Public Footpaths

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to review Sections 53 and 54 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to withdraw the provision to re-classify public paths as byways open to all traffic. [33596]

Richard Benyon: Section 54 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 was repealed through section 47 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, consequently enacted by commencement order in May 2006. At the same time all roads used as public paths not yet reclassified under section 54 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 became restricted byways, under the Restricted Byways Regulations 2006.

Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act is the legal mechanism for recording all public rights of way and therefore it will not be reviewed.

Public Sector: Food

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to increase the proportion of publicly-procured *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb and *(c)* pork which comes from UK sources. [33723]

Mr Paice: One of the Government's priorities is to support and develop British farming and encourage sustainable food production. To achieve this it needs to be seen to lead by example and encourage sustainable food procurement by the Government and the wider public sector. In support of this, the Government have made a commitment to source food, subject to no overall increase in costs, meeting British or equivalent standards of production.

This commitment will be included as part of a set of Government Buying Standards for food, covering sustainability of food and catering operations as well as nutrition, which will be mandatory for central Government Departments and will be promoted to the wider public sector. These Government Buying Standards, currently the subject of an external review ending on 24 January, will be published in March this year.

We know that some Departments are already buying a high proportion of food that meets British or equivalent standards of production and therefore it should be possible for others to do the same. DEFRA will be working to help all Departments achieve this goal through guidance and learning from best practice. Departments will be asked to report on the extent to which they meet the Government Buying Standards in June 2011.

Government. procurement has to comply with EU and UK legislation which is intended to prevent 'buy national' policies and encourage free trade and equal access to markets. Any action in contradiction to these principles would run a high risk of legal challenge and would be contrary to the Government's wider public procurement policy.

Rescue Dogs: Quarantine

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will consider reducing the quarantine time for UK search and rescue dogs used in international humanitarian assistance missions. [33843]

Mr Paice: The UK maintains strict controls on the movement of dogs and cats into the UK. These controls require all dogs, including working dogs, entering the UK from certain countries to be placed in quarantine on their arrival. This is intended to protect us from the incursion of serious diseases like rabies.

However, we recognise the excellent work carried out by UK search and rescue dogs in response to international emergencies. We also appreciate that ongoing and regular training is critical for these dogs so that they can maintain their response capability, and the burden that quarantine places on these animals.

Each case would need to be considered on an individual basis, but we would be willing to work with the relevant organisations to explore potential options which prove an acceptable compromise between the needs of these dogs and our disease control requirements.

For example, DEFRA worked closely with the Essex Fire Service in 2009 to develop a system which allowed a rescue dog returning from the earthquake in Indonesia to continue her training routine, while maintaining our strict controls protecting the public from the very serious disease of rabies. DEFRA is happy to continue working with search and rescue dog organisations to look at ways to maintain their dogs' readiness to respond to international situations in this manner.

Sewers: Private Sector

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of pump stations which will be transferred to water companies between 1 October 2011 and *(a)* 1 October 2012, *(b)* 1 October 2013, *(c)* 1 October 2014, *(d)* 1 October 2015 and *(e)* 1 October 2016. [33881]

Richard Benyon: Draft regulations for the transfer of private sewers to water and sewerage companies were the subject of consultation between August and November 2010 and provide for the transfer of all eligible pumping stations by 1 October 2016. The precise timing of the transfer of individual pumping stations will be a matter for each company to determine in light of the need for improvement or replacement works. The impact assessment published alongside the consultation paper estimates the total number of pumping stations to be transferred as 22,000.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect on flood management of transferring private drains, sewers and pump stations to water companies. [33882]

Richard Benyon: The proposed transfer will significantly aid surface water management, which is currently inhibited by disparate ownership of sewerage assets. One of the primary benefits will be better integrated management and maintenance of the transferred assets as part of the public sewerage system. In his report on the 2007 floods, Sir Michael Pitt welcomed the clarification of institutional responsibilities that the proposed transfer will bring as a contribution to reducing surface water flooding. The transfer will apply to private foul and surface water sewers that connect to the public sewerage system.

Sudden Oak Disease

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on the spread of Sudden Oak disease in England; and what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies are taking to curtail the spread of the disease. [33284]

Mr Paice: I discuss such matters regularly with ministerial colleagues, particularly my noble Friend Lord Henley who has responsibility for plant health.

In 2009, a five-year £25 million programme began in England and Wales, in addition to ongoing work across the UK, to tackle diseases caused by two plant pathogens, the Phytophthora species "P. ramorum" and "P. kernoviae". "P. ramorum" is known as Sudden Oak Death in the USA, although the impact on oak species in the UK has been limited.

The focus of the programme has been reconsidered since finding "P. ramorum" seriously affecting Japanese larch trees in the south-west of England in August 2009. The programme has been subject to review, in consultation with a range of interested parties, and the outcome of this review should be announced shortly.

The Forestry Commission has been working closely with the Food and Environment Research Agency to deliver the programme against the diseases and has been carrying out annual surveys of woodland since 2004. Wherever the pathogen's presence is confirmed it requires the removal of all infected plants and trees, and the Forestry Commission takes the same action on the land it manages. Activity has increased significantly since "P. ramorum" was confirmed on Japanese larch, an important component of commercial forestry, and currently some 3,000 hectares of Japanese larch are being cleared mainly in south west England and south Wales in an effort to halt the spread of the disease. Funding totalling £600,000 has been made available from the programme funds to help owners arrange for the felling and marketing of their timber and the clearance of younger non-commercial crops.

Sustainable Development Commission

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many staff of the Sustainable Development Commission will be *(a)* transferred to her Department and *(b)* released following its abolition; [33308]

(2) what level of savings she expects to accrue from the abolition of the Sustainable Development Commission in each of the next four financial years. [33641]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 17 January 2011]:* DEFRA and the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) are currently reviewing evidence as to which SDC staff are eligible to transfer to the Department. This is part of the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector process. Numbers of staff who will transfer or be released from the SDC Whitehall office will be known once this process has been completed.

DEFRA has contributed approximately £2.5 million a year to the SDC's budget. We are determining the scale of any costs arising from the abolition of the SDC as part of the SDC transition project. This will include the cost of redundancy compensation payments as well as salary costs for any staff that transfer into DEFRA. We anticipate that any costs will be outweighed by the long term savings to DEFRA and to Government.

There will be some additional savings from the disbanding of the DEFRA team responsible for managing DEFRA's relationship with the SDC.

Work Programme

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effect on rural communities of the proposed Work Programme; [34092]

(2) what assessment she has conducted with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government of the effects on construction of social housing in rural communities in England over the next five years; [34197]

(3) what assessment she has made with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the level of pensioner poverty in rural communities in England over each of the next five years. [34198]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is the Rural Champion within Government, and its officials engage regularly with those of other Government Departments to highlight rural issues and ensure that rural interests are taken into account in policy making.

I am currently undertaking a programme of rurally-focused meetings with all Ministers from other policy Departments, which will naturally include Ministers from the Department for Communities and Local Government, which will include discussions on delivery of social and affordable housing, as well as meeting with Ministers from the Department for Work and Pensions, which will include discussions on the issue of pensioner poverty in rural areas.

Both are scheduled to take place shortly.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arctic

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the Arctic region; and if he will make a statement. [34611]

Mr Bellingham: Our principal aims in the Arctic are to promote peace and good governance, and increase UK influence in the region by maintaining good bilateral and multilateral relationships with the Arctic States, for example, through supporting the work of the Arctic Council and other international and regional bodies.

The UK recognises the need to protect the Arctic environment, particularly in light of rapid regional climate change, but also recognises that the Arctic region is crucial to UK energy security and of increasing interest to British business and scientists. The Government therefore works with the Arctic States to promote and support British interests in the region, including in respect of science, energy, fisheries and potential transport routes opened up by the melting sea ice.

Arms Control

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress his Department has made on negotiations on an international arms trade treaty; and if he will make a statement. [34154]

Alistair Burt: Securing a robust and effective arms trade treaty remains a priority for the Government. The UK played a full and active role at the start of negotiations on an arms trade treaty (ATT) in New York in July 2010. Good progress was made at the meeting, with constructive engagement by the majority of UN member states.

The UK regularly discusses the ATT with both supportive states and those that still have concerns about the treaty. We are also working with non-governmental organisations and the UK defence industry to build support for the ATT, including through the funding of a range of ATT related projects. Negotiations will continue at the next preparatory committee meeting in February 2011.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the negotiation of an international arms trade treaty that is legally binding on signatories. [34156]

Alistair Burt: The UK remains fully committed to negotiating a robust and effective, legally binding arms trade treaty to establish common international standards for the trade in conventional arms.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to maintain the post of Ambassador for Multilateral Arms Control and Disarmament after the end of the current Ambassador's term of office in 2011. [34341]

Alistair Burt: Following an internal reorganisation to our multilateral diplomatic posts in Switzerland, the responsibilities currently held by the Ambassador for Multilateral Arms Control and Disarmament have been redistributed to ensure that Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) resources are best placed to service both Geneva and non-Geneva-based work. When the current Ambassador's term ends in 2011, we will retain the post of UK permanent representative to the conference on disarmament in Geneva. However leadership of the UK delegations to the non-proliferation treaty and the arms trade treaty will revert to the relevant heads of department at the FCO in London. This will ensure even greater Whitehall and ministerial co-ordination across the multilateral arms control and disarmament community, including on the arms trade treaty as we approach the critical UN negotiating conference in 2012. I can confirm that multilateral arms control and disarmament continue to be a high priority for the FCO.

British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department plans to clarify the ambiguity which exists on the support services offered to British nationals bereaved by murder and manslaughter abroad. [33795]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The consular support currently available to British nationals bereaved by murder and manslaughter abroad is set out in our publications 'Support for British nationals abroad: a Guide', and a 'Guide for bereaved families', both available at:

www.fco.gov.uk

We are considering with other interested Departments and agencies how we might improve the support provided to bereaved families following a murder or manslaughter abroad.

British Nationals Abroad: Terrorism

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to implement the provisions of the Crime and Security Act 2010 related to compensation for victims of terrorism overseas; and if he will make a statement. [33716]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

Lead responsibility for ensuring provision of support services and compensation to victims of crime rests with the Ministry of Justice.

Decisions have not yet been taken with regards to the provisions in the Crime and Security Act 2010.

Diplomatic Service: Public Appointments

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions British ambassadorial posts have been recruited through open competition in each of the last two years. [33827]

Alistair Burt: There has been no recruitment for ambassadorial posts through external, open competition in the last two years.

India: Entry Clearances

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the ability of British citizens to acquire visas to visit countries in the Indian sub-continent. [34261]

Alistair Burt: We cannot go into details on individual cases. However we are aware that British citizens of Pakistani origin applying for an Indian visa have been subject to additional checks by the Indian Government and these have led to delays. We have raised our concerns about this issue with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in India, both bilaterally and in conjunction with European Union colleagues.

India: Foreign Relations

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on strengthening the UK's relations with India; and if he will make a statement. [34342]

Alistair Burt: The bilateral relationship with India sits on solid foundations, but my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made clear that the UK is committed to making this partnership stronger, wider and deeper, to mutual benefit. This reflects India's increasingly important role in the world and our shared interest in democracy, sustained economic growth, and global security through effective international institutions.

Since my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's visit to India and the summit with Indian Prime Minister Singh in July 2010 we have set in train an ambitious agenda of practical co-operation. A number of further visits, including by Cabinet Ministers, have taken place in both directions. A significant UK trade delegation is accompanying my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable) on a visit to India this week. In February a forum of chief executive officers from both countries will meet to advise on improving bilateral trade. A new phase in the UK/India Education and Research initiative will further enhance co-operation between educational institutions and provide a platform for the increased ties in science and technology that will help drive economic growth on both sides. Co-operation also continues on defence, counter terrorism and climate change.

Both sides are committed to deepening the relationship at the non-governmental level and hon. Members may be aware of recent parliamentary exchanges. India's new membership of the UN Security Council also provides an opportunity to engage even more closely on key international issues and it is the Government's intention to do so.

Iran: Prisoners

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Iran on the arrest of Mrs Nasrin Sotoudeh; and if he will make a statement. [33842]

Alistair Burt: As I said in my statement of 10 January 2011, I am deeply disturbed by the ongoing detention of Nasrin Sotoudeh, and by the 11-year prison sentence which was recently handed down to her. I have raised this case on a number of occasions directly with the Iranian embassy in London and will continue to call on the Iranian authorities to overturn these sentences. I am also deeply concerned by reports that Reza Khandan, Ms Sotoudeh's husband, has now been detained by the authorities. Arrests and harassment of family members as a means to exert pressure are entirely unacceptable. I urge Iran to cease its harassment of human rights defenders and lawyers for doing their jobs and defending those without a voice.

Office of UK Permanent Representative to EC

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) when he expects to commence the process to identify a successor for the present UK Permanent Representative to the EU; [33852]

(2) who will *(a)* sit on and *(b)* chair the panel to oversee the appointment procedure of a new Permanent Representative to the EU; [33897]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to enable the Foreign Affairs Select Committee to have the right to confirm the appointment of each UK Permanent Representative to the EU; [33898]

(4) if he will bring forward proposals for the European Scrutiny Committee to have the right to confirm the appointment of each UK Permanent Representative to the EU. [33899]

Mr Lidington: The post of UK Permanent Representative to the EU is being handled as part of a continuing appointments process to fill a number of senior diplomatic posts from within the civil service. Diplomatic service appointments of ambassadorial rank are agreed by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, and made by Her Majesty the Queen. An announcement will be made once this process is complete. The Government do not propose to bring forward proposals to enable either the Foreign Affairs Select Committee or the European Scrutiny Committee to have the right to confirm the appointment of a new UK Permanent Representative to the European Union, or any other diplomatic service appointment. We do propose to continue the practice that political appointees to diplomatic service positions should appear before the select committee after their appointments have been made. It would not be appropriate to appoint the UK Permanent Representative to the Cabinet: Ministers are accountable to Parliament for all aspects of the Government's European policy.

Palestinians: Embassies

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent consideration he has given to upgrading the status of the Palestinian delegation in London to that of a full diplomatic mission; and if he will make a statement. [34206]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of the steps that some other EU states have taken to upgrade the status of the Palestinian Delegations in their capitals. The Palestinians have made the same request to the UK, which we are considering in accordance with our long-standing support for Palestinian state building.

The Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964 and the Diplomatic and Consular Premises Act 1987 confer diplomatic privileges and immunities in the UK on accredited diplomats, their families etc. of other states.

As the UK does not recognise Palestine as a state, the Palestinian Authority in the UK is not entitled to the privileges and immunities provided for in the United Kingdom Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964 and the Diplomatic and Consular Premises Act 1987. These Acts implement the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1964 in UK law, a convention that regulates the diplomatic conduct between states.

Russia: Pipelines

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of the Russian Federation on allegations of corruption in the construction of the Eastern Siberia-Pacific Ocean oil pipeline. [33982]

Mr Lidington: I have made no specific representations about this pipeline. However UK Ministers regularly discuss the business climate in Russia, including corruption, with our Russian counterparts.

Sri Lanka: Floods

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in the east of Sri Lanka following the recent floods; and if he will make a statement. [34366]

Alistair Burt: I have received regular reports from our high commission in Colombo on the effect of the floods on central and eastern Sri Lanka. These indicate that over one million people have been affected by the severe weather and just over 51,000 are displaced as of 17 January 2011. The Sri Lankan Government and the UN are co-ordinating humanitarian relief for the flood victims. I have expressed to the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister our sympathy for those affected by these devastating floods. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and follow UN assessments of the humanitarian operation.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Support Agency is required to assess income from war disability benefit when calculating payments due in respect of children. [34340]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Support Agency is required to assess income from war disability benefit when calculating payments due in respect of children. [34340]

Under the current child maintenance scheme introduced in 2003, the receipt of a war disablement pension is a prescribed benefit for the purposes of the Child Support Act 1991. A non-resident parent in receipt of a prescribed benefit is liable to pay maintenance at the flat rate which is currently £5 per week.

In old child maintenance scheme, for cases opened between 1993 and 2003, a war disablement pension is included in the calculation of the net weekly income but £10 of their total income is then disregarded. If the revised calculation leads to a liability of £6.50 or less per week, then they are exempt from paying maintenance.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Disability

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has carried out on the effects of measures announced as a result of the June 2010 Budget and the Comprehensive Spending Review on people with disabilities. [34326]

Maria Miller: Within the Department for Work and Pensions, all Budget and spending review measures will be equality impact assessed. Where the detail of policies is still being developed we will publish equality impact assessments at the most appropriate time, for example alongside the Welfare Reform Bill.

Some policies will be subject to consultation and, therefore, the equality impact assessment will be published at a later date, when policies are finalised.

The equality impacts of Budget changes have been published where detail of the policy has been finalised, and can be found on this Department's website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/impact%2Dassessments/equality%2Dimpact%2Dassessments/

Housing Benefit

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on people on low incomes of the Government's proposed reforms to housing benefit. [33931]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12' on 23 July, which includes analysis at the local authority level. An impact assessment and equality impact assessment were published on 30 November. Copies of the documents have been placed in the Library. We will publish impact assessments for the remaining measures at the time the relevant legislation is introduced.

Social Fund

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the running costs, excluding grants and debts written off, were of the Social Fund in each year from 2004-05 to 2009-10. [27585]

Steve Webb: I apologise for the delay in replying.

The administration of the Social Fund is mainly carried out by Jobcentre Plus. The following table provides data back to 2006-07. This is the earliest time for which data are available for Social Fund activity.

Table 1: Social Fund direct staff administration costs

	£ million
2009-10	121.4
2008-09	97.1
2007-08	82.5
2006-07	70.5

Notes:

1. The costs shown represent the direct staff costs within Jobcentre Plus associated with Social Fund activity. The basis for allocating management, support costs and head office costs has changed over this period and it would be disproportionately costly to attempt to include all of these costs on a comparable basis.
2. The costs cover the direct staff administration costs of Budgeting and Crisis Loans including face to face interviews, Community Care Grants, Funeral Payments and Sure Start Maternity Grants, reviews and appeals and exclude Winter Fuel payments. Debt Management activity is carried out by a Shared Service function on behalf of Jobcentre Plus. Activity specific to Social Fund Debt is not separately identified from the wider debt recovery costs.
3. The increase in cost mainly reflects increased volumes of Crisis Loans.
4. In 2009-10 face to face interviews were introduced where an individual made a third or subsequent request for a Crisis Loan within a rolling 12 month period. The aim of these interviews is to:

Help ensure that the Fund is not being mis-used. Evidence suggests that on being invited to interview, significant numbers of applicants either terminate the telephone call or fail to attend the appointment.

Help sign-post genuine needy customers for independent money advice so that they can receive help with matters such as budgeting.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Management System

Social Security Benefits

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to process notification of changes of circumstance of benefit claimants *(a)* resident in Makerfield constituency and *(b)* nationally was in the latest period for which figures are available. [34612]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus monitor the average time taken to process changes of circumstance via internal measurement indicators using an Average Actual Clearance Time (AACT) for each benefit.

AACT measures the average number of working days we take to process changes of circumstance. The measure starts when the notification is received in Jobcentre Plus and ends when the relevant details have been recorded.

The hon. Lady has asked for details for claimants resident in Makerfield constituency. These are not processed at Makerfield Benefit Delivery Centre (BDC); they are dealt with by Bolton BDC. Makerfield BDC processes claims made in London.

The following table shows the latest AACT performance for changes of circumstance at both a national level and for those processed in Bolton BDC.

Change of circumstance: Average Actual Clearance Time

Working days

	2010									
	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*Year to date*
National										
Employment and support allowance	3.4	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.3
Incapacity benefit	4.5	7.1	4.9	3.3	4.2	4.8	3.9	3.5	3.2	4.6
Income support	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.1
Jobseeker's allowance	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.1	2.9	3.5
Bolton BDC										
Employment and support allowance	2.8	2.6	3.0	2.4	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.2	3.1	3.2
Incapacity benefit	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.0	2.0
Income support	2.9	3.2	3.7	3.4	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.8
Jobseeker's allowance	3.1	3.6	3.4	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.1	4.0	4.4	3.8

Source:

Management Information System Programme (MISP). MISP is the departmental performance management, data capture and reporting tool. This type of internal management information does not form part of the official statistics outputs that are released by the Department in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice.

In PDCS we have taken the hon. Lady's question to mean what is the average number of working days it takes us to process a notification of change of circumstances. The way in which management information is captured means that we are unable to provide what the average time taken to process notification of changes of circumstance of benefit claimants resident in Makerfield constituency. However we are able to provide information nationally in the following table:

Year to date Average Actual Clearance Time, as at December 2010

Business event	*Days*
Pension credit changes	6.5
Disability living allowance supersessions	39.0
Disability living allowance SofS supersessions	25.0
Disability living allowance maintenance	2.3
Attendance allowance supersessions	24.5
Attendance allowance SofS supersessions	26.2
Attendance allowance maintenance	1.9
Carer's allowance maintenance	8.9

Notes:

1. A supersession is where the customer raises questions about entitlement to DLA/AA e.g. there has been a change of circumstances and they require more help with personal care or getting about.
2. A Secretary of State Supersession (SofS) is undertaken when information is received that raises questions about a customer's entitlement to DLA or AA.
3. Maintenance is where the customer reports a change of personal circumstances such as a change of address or bank account etc.
4. The Average Actual Clearance Time (AACT) target measures the average number of days we take to process changes of circumstances. The purpose of the target is to make sure that our customers' changes of circumstances are processed in a reasonable length of time.
5. The AACT is calculated by dividing the total number of days taken to clear cases by the total number of cases cleared. *Example:* Total number of working days taken to clear cases is 150; total number of cases cleared is 50. Therefore the average clearance time is 150/50 = 3.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions—PDCS Management Information Statistics.

Information for the average time taken to process notification of changes of circumstances for state pension changes is not captured, however we can tell the hon. Lady that the target is 95% in 15 days and the year to date figure for December 2010 is 94.9%.

Social Security Benefits: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have been transferred to an alternative benefit following a medical assessment for the purposes of determining benefit suitability in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire and *(c)* Scotland since May 2010; [34335]

(2) how many people have had benefit withdrawn following a medical assessment for the purposes of determining benefit suitability in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire and *(c)* Scotland since May 2010; [34336]

(3) how many medical assessment decisions have been overturned on appeal in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire and *(c)* Scotland since May 2010; [34337]

(4) how many medical assessments for the purposes of determining benefit suitability have been carried out in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire and *(c)* Scotland since May 2010; [34338]

(5) how many appeals against medical assessments for the purposes of determining benefit suitability have been submitted in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire and *(c)* Scotland since May 2010. [34339]

Chris Grayling: Since the questions all relate to the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) in the same geographical areas, a single response addressing all the questions is given in the tables.

Information on the destinations of people found fit for work at WCA is not available. Information on WCAs held and their outcomes is not available at the constituency level.

Table 1 gives information on all initial WCAs that took place between October 2008 (when ESA was introduced) and June 2010, the latest data available. The data are presented for the South Lanarkshire local authority area and for the Scotland government office region. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, so columns may not sum to the totals shown.

Table 1: All ESA WCAs held and number of fit for work outcomes for South Lanarkshire LA and Scotland GOR

	Fit for work		*All completed work capability assessments*	
Month of assessment	*South Lanarkshire*	*Scotland*	*South Lanarkshire*	*Scotland*
October 2008	—	—	—	—
November 2008	0	10	0	20
December 2008	10	140	20	190
January 2009	40	460	50	590
February 2009	60	780	70	1,020
March 2009	130	1,660	150	2,040
April 2009	130	1,680	170	2,170
May 2009	170	2,160	220	2,810
June 2009	220	2,370	300	3,170
July 2009	230	2,670	290	3,590
August 2009	230	2,770	280	3,690
September 2009	210	2,340	280	3,230
October 2009	180	2,810	220	3,690
November 2009	180	3,000	280	4,090
December 2009	200	1,920	270	2,940
January 2010	170	3,050	210	4,010
February 2010	190	2,900	270	3,890
March 2010	230	3,440	300	4,680
April 2010	180	2,650	240	3,870
May 2010	190	3,170	280	4,520
June 2010	140	3,500	230	4,920
Total	3,070	43,500	4,130	59,100

Source:
Benefit claims data held by DWP and functional assessment data sourced from Atos Healthcare

Table 2 gives the number and outcome of all completed appeals against a fit-for-work decision at initial WCA in the requested areas, for ESA claims starting between October 2008 and August 2009, the latest data available. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 so columns may not sum to the totals shown.

Table 2: Appeals against an ESA Fit for Work decision at WCA for South Lanarkshire and Scotland

	Decision in favour of appellant		*DWP decision upheld*		*Total appeals*	
Month of claim start	*South Lanarkshire*	*Scotland*	*South Lanarkshire*	*Scotland*	*South Lanarkshire*	*Scotland*
October 2008	10	90	10	140	20	230
November 2008	20	380	60	620	80	1,000
December 2008	20	350	50	540	70	890
January 2009	30	490	50	700	80	1,190
February 2009	40	530	60	710	90	1,230
March 2009	40	600	60	770	100	1,370
April 2009	40	550	50	690	90	1,240
May 2009	30	500	50	730	80	1,230

Table 2: Appeals against an ESA Fit for Work decision at WCA for South Lanarkshire and Scotland

	Decision in favour of appellant		*DWP decision upheld*		*Total appeals*	
Month of claim start	*South Lanarkshire*	*Scotland*	*South Lanarkshire*	*Scotland*	*South Lanarkshire*	*Scotland*
June 2009	50	520	60	680	100	1,200
July 2009	20	400	50	580	70	970
August 2009	30	330	50	500	80	820
Total	320	4,730	540	6,640	860	11,370

Source:
Benefit claims data held by DWP, functional assessment data sourced from Atos Healthcare and appeals data sourced from the Tribunals Service

Background

The tables presented above are equivalent to tables 3 and 5 in the official statistics report on the WCA last published in October 2010. The latest report can be found on the DWP website at the following link. All WCA data relate to outcomes at initial WCA only, i.e. repeat WCA outcomes are excluded from this analysis. These statistics are regularly updated and present the latest and most reliable data we hold. More information is available in the report.

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

Constituency level data

Information on the home constituency of ESA claims is not recorded.

Destinations post ESA

While we do hold some data on destinations of people leaving ESA after a fit for work decision at WCA, these data are incomplete and so not robust. Any conclusions drawn from these data would be at best unreliable and at worst potentially misleading.

ESA appeals data

Data on people appealing against a fit-for-work decision are only available once the appeal has been heard and the result given. Since appeals take around six months to be completed on average, there is a significant delay between an appeal being lodged and the result being given. Data are presented for claims starting by August 2009 since we expect that the large majority of appeals for these cases will have been cleared to date. If we were to provide data on more recent cases it would be unreliable and probably underestimate the true number of appeals.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Youth Groups

Mark Pritchard: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what recent discussions the Church Commissioners have had with local authorities on Church-sponsored youth groups. [33926]

Tony Baldry: The Church of England has a long history of delivering youth work and currently provides activities outside church for over 439,900 children and young people. At a local level, the church has seen extensive growth in the number of churches employing youth workers in recent years and the establishment of some key projects, often with the financial support of local authorities.

At both national and local levels the Church has had a long history of delivering youth work collaborative working partnerships with national and local government. Currently there are approximately 440,000 children and young people up to the age of 25 attending church-based activities and youth groups which are staffed by 116,000 volunteers and an additional 4,900 employed adults.

There is still a desire to work in partnership but most recent conversations have inevitably focused on how reductions in their budgets will impact on projects undertaken by the Church and other voluntary sector organizations. In Lincolnshire the county council is proposing a 60% cut to the youth budget of children's services and there are similar stories from across the country. The Church's concern is not only for young people within it but also for those in the wider community.

Ministers of Religion: Pensions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what contingency arrangements the Church Commissioners have made to cover the pension liabilities of former Roman Catholic priests who moved to the Church of England in the last five years. [34163]

Tony Baldry: Figures held centrally by the Ministry Division of the Archbishop's Council show that in the period 2005-10 the division's candidate's panel dealt with 14 former Roman Catholic priests seeking ordination in the Church of England, of whom 11 were accepted for ministry. As there is discretion at diocesan level over the requirements for acceptance into ministry, not all cases are centrally recorded, meaning the national figure, is likely to be higher. There are, however, no pensions implications for the Church Commissioners who are responsible only for clergy pensions earned for service in the Church of England before 1998.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Water

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to raise the profile of sanitation and water through the Sanitation and Water for All initiative; and if he will make a statement. [33998]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is a member of the Sanitation and Water for All initiative (SWA) Steering Committee. Having played a leadership role in establishing of SWA, DFID has recently taken on the role of vice chair of the partnership. We are driving the initiative forward to help the most off-track countries to make tangible progress in water and sanitation.

India: Poverty

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Indian government on its plans to reduce poverty; and if he will make a statement. [34082]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: During my visit to India in November 2010, I had discussions with Indian Ministers on India's achievements and future plans for poverty reduction.

The Indian Government sets out their plans to reduce poverty in 'Five Year Plans'. The current Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12 is available at:

www.planningcommission.nic.in/plans/planrel/fiveyr/welcome.html

International Assistance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made towards each of the millennium development goals; what steps he plans to take to ensure further progress; and if he will make a statement. [33580]

Mr Duncan: Progress against the millennium development goals is recorded in the Department for International Development's (DFID's) annual report which is published on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

The Secretary of State for International Development has initiated three thorough reviews of UK bilateral aid, multilateral aid and humanitarian emergency response programmes. These reviews will determine how we can accelerate progress towards the millennium development goals and achieve maximum value for money for the UK taxpayer. The results will be announced in the spring.

In December 2010 DFID launched two new frameworks for results to tackle malaria and prevent deaths during pregnancy and childbirth. They set out how British aid money will deliver the coalition Government's commitment to help halve malaria deaths in at least ten high burden countries in Africa and Asia and save the lives of at least 50,000 women and 250,000 newborns. Full details are available on the DFID website.

Nigeria: Education

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to increase the geographical coverage of its Education Sector Support programme in Nigeria. [33844]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not currently plan to expand the geographical coverage of the Education Sector Support programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN). The programme is working at the Federal level and within six states. This is already a challenging level of operation and the approved coverage for this programme. DFID is currently assessing how best to ensure that more children, particularly girls, access improved education opportunities in Nigeria. We are considering through which mechanisms we can best achieve this, with the emphasis on best value for money.

Overseas Aid: Climate Change

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to what use the UK's contribution from the Environmental Transformation Fund to the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds has been put; what proportion of the contribution was in the form of loans; and whether any conditions were placed on the contribution. [34620]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) are not World Bank funds; rather, they are managed by an equal number of developing and developed countries. The World Bank acts as trustee and, alongside other multilateral development banks, is one of the agencies recipient countries may choose to implement their national programmes.

The UK's £735 million contribution to the CIFs is helping 45 developing countries to pilot transformational investments in clean technology, sustainable management of forests, increased access to renewable energy, and climate resilient development. For example, the CIFs are expected to install over 12.5GW of renewable energy—enough for the equivalent of nearly 16 million households—and increase crop yields for 440,000 people in Bangladesh through improved water management.

The money provided to the Environmental Transformation Fund under the 2007 comprehensive spending review was a capital grant contribution. The UK's contribution to the CIFs is then used to make loans on highly concessional terms, with a small proportion available as grants. Once loans are repaid to the CIFs, they can be reinvested in further programmes to help other developing countries tackle climate change.

As a first mover in the development of the CIFs, the UK's contribution of £735 million has leveraged over five times this amount ($6.4 billion) from other donors, much of this in the form of grants. These donor pledges are, in turn, leveraging further funds from the multilateral development banks and the private sector. For example, for every £1 of finance for clean technology we have agreed to spend, another £8 is being mobilised from other sources.

In accordance with the International Development Act 2002, no conditions were placed on the UK's contribution, although we are working hard to ensure that the CIFs deliver results and value for money.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what powers he has to determine how the UK's contribution to the World Bank Climate Investment Funds is spent. [34621]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK's contribution to the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) is paid into a trust fund with other donors' funds. Funding decisions are taken on a consensus basis by the CIF committees which have equal representation from developed and developing countries. The UK is represented on all the CIF committees. To ensure the CIFs deliver with maximum impact we have agreed a set of results frameworks which we will use to assess all funding proposals.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituency Boundaries

5. **Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of redrawing constituency boundaries. [33936]

Mr Harper: The Government's current estimate of the costs of undertaking the boundary review under the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill is £11.2 million.

House of Lords Reform

6. **Duncan Hames:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proposals on the grandfathering of privileges in the second Chamber he is considering. [33937]

Mr Harper: The Deputy Prime Minister is chairing a cross-party Committee to produce a draft Bill on House of Lords reform early this year, which will include the Government's proposals on the transition from the House of Lords to a reformed second chamber.

Alternative Vote: Referendums

Pete Wishart: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has received from the Electoral Commission on the preparation time required between Royal Assent to the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act and the date of the referendum to be held on the alternative vote; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence on the matter. [34491]

Mr Harper: The Electoral Commission wrote to the Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform on 11 January highlighting the key dates and milestones that must be met between Royal Assent and a polling day of 5 May in order for the Electoral Commission to successfully deliver its key responsibilities in relation to the referendum on the alternative vote. The Electoral Commission will be publishing this letter on their website and a copy will also be placed in the Library.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the Government have identified any alternative date for a referendum on the alternative vote in the event that the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act does not receive Royal Assent in time for a poll on 5 May 2011. [34492]

Mr Harper: The Government are committed to the voting systems referendum on 5 May 2011. No alternative date has been identified.

Constituencies

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects his proposals for fewer and more equally-sized constituencies to be implemented. [33930]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Construction

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of new social rented homes required to be let at the rate of 80% of market rent to meet his target for new affordable home construction by 2015. [33197]

Grant Shapps: We will be publishing our impact assessment on the affordable rent model shortly.

The number of homes started and delivered in each year will be dependent on agreements between housing associations and the Homes and Communities Agency, in consultation with local authorities.

Homelessness

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the number of people who are homeless in *(a)* England, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* Hastings and Rye constituency. [33703]

Grant Shapps: Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly P1E returns. Summary information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to ensure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available and this information is also collected.

The number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty during the July to September quarter of 2010 and the number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of September in East Sussex and England are given in the following table:

	Number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty	*Number of households in temporary accommodation*
Eastbourne	3	31
Hastings	15	26
Lewes	9	57
Rother	15	12
Wealden	33	54
East Sussex	75	180
England	11,840	49,680

Source:
P1E returns, July to September quarter 2010

The data are not collected at constituency level. Hastings and Rye constituency is made up of electoral wards in Hastings and Rother.

Further information for each local authority is given in the following table at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1791630.xls

Information is also collected on rough sleeping. Since 1998, only councils in areas with a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem were required to conduct an official rough sleeper count, which meant that only 70 councils submitted information to central Government. Figures published in July 2010 showed that under this previous method, on any given night there were 440 rough sleepers in England. However, the coalition Government wanted a more complete measure of rough sleeping and when the remaining 256 councils provided estimates of the scale of the problem in their areas, this added a further estimated 807 rough sleepers, taking the national total to 1,247 rough sleepers on any given night. All local authorities in East Sussex gave estimates, these are given in the following table along with the England figure:

	Number of rough sleepers
Eastbourne	4
Hastings	3
Lewes	2
Rother	4
Wealden	0
East Sussex	13
England	1,247

Source:

2010 local authority street counts and estimates

The data are not collected at constituency level.

Rough sleeping figures are published by the Department on the DCLG website and are given by local authority in the table at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1648099.xls

Under new guidance all councils across England will now provide information on rough sleeping. This move follows consultation with homelessness charities and councils and is aimed at getting a clearer picture of the scale of the problem in each area so more targeted support can be provided to some of the most vulnerable in society.

Housing Associations

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of the total number of households in *(a)* Coventry, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* nationally are housed by housing associations. [33791]

Andrew Stunell: Information for households at local authority level is not available. However, information is available on the number of dwellings owned by registered housing associations in England. Although not identical to figures for households, because some dwellings are empty and others can contain more than one household, these figures are a good proxy for households.

These figures include not only self-contained dwellings but also some bedspaces within communal accommodation, and this inclusion of bedspaces tends to inflate estimates of the size of the housing association dwelling stock by a small amount.

These figures show that, on 31 March 2010, 18.3% of dwellings in Coventry, 10.2% of dwellings in the west midlands and 9.9% of dwellings in England were owned by housing associations[1].

[1] Source:

TSA Regulatory and Statistical Return.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing association households were refurbished in the West Midlands in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [33792]

Andrew Stunell: Data on dwellings made decent or receiving capital works are not collected from housing associations. The number of housing association owned non-decent homes in the west midlands reduced from 6,814 in April 2009 to 2,314 in April 2010.

Housing: Planning Permission

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the merits of ensuring the new planning system for housing requires local authorities to assess and meet housing need and incentivises local communities to build more homes. [33793]

Andrew Stunell: On 21 December 2010 the Minister for Decentralisation, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark), announced that the National Planning Policy Framework will streamline the national suite of planning policies including those currently set out in "Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing".

Organisations and individuals are currently being invited to offer views on priorities and policies that should be included in the new framework before a draft is produced and available for formal consultation.

The New Homes Bonus scheme is a powerful, simple, transparent and permanent incentive for local authorities and communities to increase their aspirations for housing growth. Commencing in April 2011, the New Homes Bonus will match fund the additional council tax raised for new homes and properties brought back into use, with an additional amount of £350 for affordable homes, for the following six years.

Consultation on the New Homes Bonus closed on 24 December 2010. We are currently considering all responses and we will publish the final scheme design in due course.

Tottenham Hotspur Football Club

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will undertake an economic impact assessment of the effect on *(a)* regeneration and *(b)* the level of employment in Tottenham constituency should Tottenham Hotspur Football Club move its operations from Tottenham to Stratford. [33850]

Robert Neill: The future use of the Olympic Stadium will be assessed against the five agreed objectives set out in the pre-qualification questionnaire issued to those parties making a formal bid. All relevant factors will be taken into account in coming to a decision.

HEALTH

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on the take-up of breast cancer screening of the availability of mobile screening units. [34094]

Paul Burstow: No assessment has been made on the effect of mobile screening units on breast screening uptake. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that mobile units do encourage uptake because they can offer screening in community settings and are more accessible.

The national health service breast screening programme (NHSBSP) currently invites women aged 50-70 for screening every three years. In 2008-09, the latest period for which statistics are available, over 2.2 million women in this age-group were invited for screening and uptake was 73.6% compared with 73.2% in 2007-08.

The NHSBSP is in the process of being extended to women aged 47 to 73. The NHS Operating Framework 2011-12, published on 15 December 2010, confirmed that all local breast screening units should continue the extension in 2011-12. Once completed, the extension will result in nearly two million additional women being eligible for screening.

Cancer: Medical Equipment

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ring-fence from reductions his Department's capital expenditure on cancer equipment. [34095]

Paul Burstow: In order to meet the needs of local populations, it is the responsibility of individual national health service trusts to purchase cancer equipment from their own financial allocations. The vast majority of NHS services are procured in this way and there are no plans to ring fence capital funding for this purpose.

Cataracts: Medical Treatments

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure specific funds are allocated to enable those with cataracts to have the widest possible choice of eye lens treatment under the GP commissioning framework; and if he will make a statement. [34021]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trust (PCT) recurrent revenue allocations are not broken down by service or policy area. It is currently for PCTs to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities.

The White Paper "Liberating the NHS" set out our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices, supported by the creation of an NHS Commissioning Board. The Government have consulted on how best to implement the White Paper and on 15 December, published their response.

Subject to parliamentary approval, GP consortia will be responsible for commissioning the great majority of national health service services include those for patients with cataracts. GP consortia will be responsible for managing their own commissioning budgets, and using these resources to commission services to achieve the best and most cost-efficient outcomes for patients. The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for the allocation and management of the majority of NHS resources from 2013-14. The board will make allocations to GP consortia on the basis of achieving equal opportunity of access to healthcare services in all areas relative to the prospective incidence of disease and disability.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to extend cervical screening to women in England who are *(a)* under the age of 25 and *(b)* under the age of 25 and have given birth. [34237]

Paul Burstow: There are no plans at this time to extend cervical screening in England to women who are aged under the age of 25, or who are under 25 and have given birth. In England, cervical screening currently starts at age 25 years in line with the recommendations of the World Health Organisation and the independent Advisory Committee on Cervical Screening (ACCS).

The Department is committed to ensuring that the age at which women are invited for cervical screening is based on the latest available clinical evidence and in the best interests of young women. In May 2009, the ACCS conducted a formal review of the evidence relating to the risks and benefits of cervical screening in women under the age of 25.

The committee were unanimous in deciding there was no reason to lower the age at which screening commences. The reasons for not lowering the screening age were that cervical cancer is very rare in women aged under 25; there is no clear evidence of an increase in the incidence of cervical cancer following the change to the screening age limit in England; no new scientific evidence was available to support the reintroduction of screening in women aged under 25; there is evidence that treatment following screening in this age group can lead to an increased risk of subsequent premature births, increasing the risk of babies dying or having disabilities; and one in three young women screened aged under 25 would have an abnormal result, as opposed to one in 14 for all women screened, and there is evidence that this causes distress and anxiety.

The cervical screening age range is a standing item on the agenda of ACCS meetings. The ACCS reviews all new research to assess its significance to the screening programme and makes recommendations to Ministers accordingly.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research into the biomedical causes of myalgic encephalomyelitis. [34319]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is an independent body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The MRC is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. In keeping with the Haldane principle, prioritisation of an individual Research Council's spending within its allocation is not a decision for Ministers.

The MRC supports research into all aspects of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME), and welcomes high-quality research applications in this area. The MRC does not normally commission research but supports high-quality investigator led proposals submitted in open competition, the selection of projects for funding is determined through peer review.

An expert group on CFS/ME established by the MRC has worked with experts in the field of CFS/ME and research leaders in aligned areas to identify and prioritise research topics where the MRC might target efforts to encourage and support high-quality proposals. The MRC is now preparing to take forward these recommendations.

Further information on research supported by the MRC and about the work of the group, including the recommendations for research topics and priorities can be found at:

http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Ourresearch/ResearchInitiatives/CFSME/index.htm

Dental Services

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission an independent review of Health Technical Memorandum 01-05 on decontamination in primary dental care practices; and if he will make a statement. [33661]

Mr Simon Burns: Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05 was produced with extensive input from dentists, and an expert multi-disciplinary working group. The group included public health experts, scientists and engineers with specialist knowledge of instrument decontamination, including protein removal. The HTM proposes a progressive approach to improving quality and ensuring effective risk reduction for patients and staff. We are confident that the validation processes used were exhaustive and fit for purpose. Drafts of the guidance were shared with an expert steering group and the British Dental Association. Comments from the peer review were considered and changes made where appropriate. In this light, we consider that a further independent review of the HTM would be an unnecessary duplication of the work already carried out.

The recent survey of decontamination in primary dental care showed that 70%, were already compliant with 20%, very near when the guidance was published. These findings would also suggest that a further review was unnecessary.

Dental Services: Standards

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department takes to ensure that dental practices operate at a satisfactory standard of decontamination. [33660]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has issued guidance to the profession in Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05: "Decontamination in primary care dental practices", a copy of which has been placed in the Library. This describes both essential quality requirements that all practices need to have in place as well as best practice requirements that all practices should aspire to reach. The Department, with the Infection Prevention Society, has issued a self-assessment audit tool to help practices assess their own level of compliance against the guidelines. A CD ROM version of the audit tool will also be distributed to practices very shortly.

All primary care dental practices will need to be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) by April 2011. The standard of local decontamination procedures within the practice is an integral part of the Health Care Acquired Infections (HCAI) Code of Practice, and compliance with the Code is included in the essential registration requirements of practices with the CQC.

Departmental Legal Costs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to each *(a)* firm of solicitors and *(b)* barristers' chambers in each of the last five years. [33743]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department obtains solicitor and barrister support in two ways. These are described as follows, together with the available data on expenditure and explanatory notes:

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Legal Services provides the Department's legal support via a service level agreement, and obtains and pays for such services on behalf of the Department, recharging the Department later. Summary expenditure for the previous five years is presented in the following table. However, DWP are not able to identify expenditure on firms of solicitors or barristers' chambers without incurring disproportionate cost.

Legal support costs incurred by DWP on behalf of the Department

Financial year	*Expenditure (£000)*
2005-06	1,140.5
2006-07	947.7
2007-08	985.3
2008-09	617.7
2009-10	1,229.7

Notes:

1. These figures include expenditure relating to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, previously Medicines Control Agency, for the whole period, and for Food Standards Agency up to and including 2006-07.
2. These figures do not include data for other non-departmental public bodies and agencies, which is not held centrally, and would incur disproportionate cost to obtain.
3. These figures include costs awarded against the Department when a case has been lost. We are not able to separate these out without incurring disproportionate cost.
4. These figures exclude the cost of the legal services team itself.

From time to time, directorates in the Department procure solicitor and barrister services directly. Before July 2008, the Department did not collect these data centrally. Data from July 2008 to date are presented in the following table.

Legal support expenditure incurred directly by the Department

£

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*Total*
Eversheds	1,061,108	—	1,061,108
DLA Piper UK	7,824	1,024,098	1,031,922
Mills and Reeve	103,041	612,166	715,207
Beachcroft	152,983	554,285	707,268
Hempsons	133,773	95,819	229,592
Capsticks	58,231	155,398	213,629
Bevan Brittan	50,651	16,064	66,715
Field Fisher Waterhouse	40,684	—	40,684
Morgan Cole	25,956	—	25,956
Addleshaw Goddard	6,332	—	6,332
Pinsent Masons	6,000	—	6,000
Berwin Leighton Paisner	4,497	—	4,497
Wragge and Co.	2,931	—	2,931
Lee and Priestley	386	—	386
Marsh Brown and Co.	—	350	350
Freeth Cartwright	127	—	127
Total	1,654,521	2,458,180	4,112,701

Notes:

1. These data are based on expenditure coded as legal services on the Department's financial system. They include expenditure with the larger legal firms, but which has not been coded as legal services. The Department may have incurred expenditure with other firms, but we are unable to extract these data without incurring disproportionate cost.

2. These data exclude expenditure to individual barristers engaged on public inquiries.

Diabetes: Brighton Kemptown

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residents of Brighton, Kemptown constituency were diagnosed with *(a)* type 1 and *(b)* type 2 diabetes in the last year for which figures are available. [34046]

Paul Burstow: Data on numbers of people diagnosed with diabetes are collected as part of the National Diabetes Audit (NDA).

Participation in the NDA is not mandatory and data are collected by primary care trust (PCT) rather than by constituency. Brighton and Hove PCT area had only partial participation in the 2008-09 NDA, which is the last year for which figures are available. The NDA collated data on 6,658 persons with diabetes in Brighton and Hove PCT. Of these, 911 had type 1 diabetes, 5,625 had type 2 diabetes and 122 had other types of diabetes. It is estimated that there are approximately 13,000 people with diabetes in Brighton and Hove PCT. This estimate uses the PBS Diabetes Population Prevalence Model Phase 3 (PBS3 model), developed by the Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory.

Disability

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has carried out on the effects of measures announced as a result of the June 2010 Budget and the comprehensive spending review on people with disabilities. [34324]

Paul Burstow: The 2010 spending review recognised the importance of social care in protecting the most vulnerable in society, including disabled people. In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging local government settlement, the coalition Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. Our assessment of the settlement is that, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, there is enough funding available to enable local authorities both to protect people's access to services and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

We have achieved this in two ways:

The national health service will transfer some funding from the health capital budget to health revenue, to be spent on measures that support social care, which also benefits health. This funding will rise to £1 billion in 2014-15, and will promote improved joint working between the health and social care systems. The new NHS operating framework set out specific primary care trust (PCT) allocations that they will transfer to local authorities for spending on social care services to benefit health, and to improve overall health gain. PCTs and local authorities will need to work together to agree jointly appropriate areas for social care investment, with a shared analysis of need and a common agreement on the outcomes to be met.

Additional grant funding, rising to £1 billion by 2014-15, will be made available for social care. This funding will be allocated in addition to the Department's existing social care grants, which will rise in line with inflation. Total grant funding from the Department for social care will reach £2.4 billion by 2014-15. In order to support local flexibility and to reduce administrative burdens, this funding will go to authorities through the formula grant.

Decisions about access to social care services are taken by local authorities. We would expect authorities to assess the impact of their decisions on those with disabilities.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* NHS and *(b)* voluntary sector residential places are available in (i) England and (ii) West Yorkshire for the treatment of people with drug addictions. [33885]

Anne Milton: Data on the total number of residential places available in England or West Yorkshire in either national health service or non-statutory settings are not available centrally.

However, local drug partnerships will have information on the level of local provision for drug dependency. Up to date contact details for each partnership can be found via the Home Office website at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100419081707/http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/dat/directory/

Data on the number of NHS residential drug treatment places are not centrally available because planning is typically done on the basis of the estimated number of available treatment episodes rather than the number of physical places/beds. The National Treatment Agency (NTA) does not hold data on the estimated number of available in-patient detoxification treatment episodes in NHS settings.

Most, but not all, non-statutory providers of specialist residential drug treatment in England provide information on their services, on a voluntary basis, to a national online directory called Rehab Online, which is maintained by the NTA for Substance Misuse. Information from Rehab Online currently suggests that there are 2,285 beds available within the voluntary/private sector (non-NHS). This includes some alcohol-only beds. 187 of these are in the Yorkshire and Humber region, with 12 beds in West Yorkshire.

These data are incomplete because they do not include data from all non-statutory providers or any from the NHS services.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* NHS and *(b)* voluntary sector non-residential places are available in (i) England and (ii) West Yorkshire for the treatment of people with drug addictions. [33886]

Anne Milton: Providers of non-residential drug treatment in England accept anyone assessed as having a drug problem. This provision is planned and commissioned on the basis of an estimated number of dependent drug users in every local area rather than on a number of physical community based treatment slots. The number of adults (over 18s) in contact with community drug treatment in England in 2009-10 was 206,889, of which 25,479 were in the Yorkshire and Humber region. The average mean wait to commence treatment is six days.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* residential and *(b)* non-residential places in the (i) NHS and (ii) voluntary sector for the treatment of people with drug addictions are occupied by persons with a criminal conviction who are attending treatment as a condition of a court order. [33887]

Anne Milton: Data on the number of people with a criminal conviction in drug treatment as a result of a court order are not collected.

Eggs: Contamination

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to reduce the level of poor quality and contaminated egg imports. [33663]

Anne Milton: We are advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), which has responsibility for policy on food safety, that general food law places the onus on food businesses to ensure that all of their ingredients and products are safe and compliant with any relevant legislation. In light of the recent dioxin contamination incident originating in Germany, the FSA has taken the opportunity to remind food businesses again of their obligations with regard to food safety. Nevertheless, while they must meet these obligations, the actual sourcing of raw materials is a commercial matter for the businesses themselves.

General Practitioners

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the GP consortia pathfinder programme. [34245]

Mr Simon Burns: Any costs associated with establishing pathfinders will come from existing primary care trust budgets. Clusters will provide a development fund of £2 per head, in addition to, and alongside, existing practice based commissioning funding, to support the development of general practitioner consortiums. The Department is not monitoring spend on the pathfinder programme.

Genito-urinary Medicine: Young People

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for future funding for sexual health services for young people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Bolton West constituency. [33621]

Anne Milton: In our White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England", published on 30 November 2010, we set our ambition for the future of public health. Core features are the establishment of a new body, Public Health England, as part of the Department, and the return to local government of public health leadership and responsibility. There will be ring-fenced public health funding from within the national health service budget. A copy of the White Paper has already been placed in the Library.

On 21 December 2010, we published the consultation document "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. The consultation period ends on 31 March. For sexual health, we propose that local authorities will be responsible for commissioning comprehensive open-access sexual health services using funds from the ring-fenced public health budget. These arrangements will also cover sexual health services for young people.

Health Services: East Sussex

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many temporary *(a)* nurses, *(b)* doctors and *(c)* office staff were employed in (i) the Conquest Hospital, (ii) Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust and (iii) East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust in each of the last five years; and what the annual cost to the public purse was of each such category of appointment. [33700]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following tables:

Table 1: Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): non-medical bank staff in specified organisations as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust (PCT)					
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting bank staff	9	—	9	6	4
Unqualified nurse bank staff	—	—	11	17	2
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust					
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting bank staff	111	66	164	42	120
Unqualified nurse bank staff	251	166	167	112	214

Notes:

1. Work force census figures are not available for individual hospitals. Therefore, it is not possible to provide the information requested in respect of the Conquest Hospital, which is part of the East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust.
2. The work force census does not collect information on the numbers of temporary or agency staff. The census does include data on bank nurses for both qualified and unqualified nursing staff and these are provided in the above table. Information on bank doctors is not collected.
3. '—' denotes zero.
4. Data Quality: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published, this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census

Table 2: Salaries and wages: non-NHS Staff in specified organisations

					£000
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Hastings and Rother PCT					
Medical	0	0	0	0	0
Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	78	0	49	148	44
Administrative and clerical	66	182	205	358	1,023
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust					
Medical	1,041	520	1,129	2,068	3,001
Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,378	0	3	8	78
Administrative and clerical	26	3	11	17	21

Notes:
1. The Department does not collect data in respect of individual hospitals. Therefore, it is not possible to provide the information requested in respect of the Conquest Hospital, which is part of the East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust.
2. The above table contains figures for spend on non-NHS staff. 'Non-NHS staff' denotes staff who do not have a permanent contract of employment with the national health service, such as agency staff. Locum and bank staff are not included as these are included within the NHS staff category in the financial returns, and are not separately identifiable from the data.
3. The Department does not collect information exactly in the format requested. For 'nurses', the closest equivalent information is held under the category 'Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff'. For 'doctors', the closest equivalent is 'Medical staff' and for 'office staff' the closest equivalent is 'Administrative and clerical staff'.
4. Hastings and Rother PCT was established in 2006-07 following the merger of its two predecessor PCTs—Bexhill and Rother PCT and Hastings and St Leonards PCT. The figures provided for 2005-06 are therefore the sum of the two predecessor PCTs.
5. The financial returns are a means for the NHS to provide planning and costing information to the Department, and these provide a more detailed breakdown of individual expenditure lines reported in the audited summarisation schedules. The financial returns data are not themselves audited, but are instead validated by reference to the audited summarisation schedules from which the NHS summarised accounts are prepared. There are a number of factors which may distort the figures and they may contain errors and omissions at an individual level (mainly as a result of classification errors) which are not material at the national level.

Source:
Financial returns (2005-06 to 2009-10)

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital managers were employed in *(a)* the Conquest Hospital, *(b)* Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust and *(c)* East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust in each of the last five years. [33701]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table:

NHS hospital and community health services: non-medical staff in each specified organisation by main staff group as at 30 September each specified year

					Headcount
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust (PCT)	663	651	669	924	896
Professionally qualified clinical staff	347	350	371	415	403
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	257	262	275	320	295
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	90	88	96	95	108
Support to clinical staff	187	177	184	339	322
Support to doctors and nursing staff	148	144	153	309	292
Support to ST and T staff	39	33	31	30	30
NHS infrastructure support	126	121	111	167	169
Central functions	90	105	98	135	126
Senior managers	8	6	1	8	9
Managers	28	10	12	24	34
Other staff or those with unknown classification	3	3	3	3	2
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	5,165	4,924	4,892	4,746	5,094
Professionally qualified clinical staff	2,094	2,080	2,119	2,030	2,170
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,607	1,595	1,640	1,545	1,668
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	487	485	479	485	502
Support to clinical staff	1,974	1,834	1,786	1,617	1,811
Support to doctors and nursing staff	1,650	1,568	1,545	1,375	1,545
Support to ST and T staff	324	266	241	242	266
NHS infrastructure support	1,090	1,009	985	1,098	1,113
Central functions	300	305	311	312	315
Hotel, property and estates	699	626	596	700	694
Senior managers	19	24	23	22	22
Managers	72	54	55	64	82
Other staff or those with unknown classification	7	1	2	1	10

Notes:
1. Work force census figures are not available for individual hospitals. Therefore, it is not possible to provide the information requested in respect of the Conquest Hospital, which is part of the East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust.
2. Data Quality: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level, figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census

Ipswich Hospital: Manpower

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital managers were employed in *(a)* Ipswich Hospital, *(b)* Suffolk primary care trust and *(c)* in the NHS in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [33016]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows hospital and community health non medical staff in each specified national health service hospital and community health service organisation by main staff group as at 30 September each year.

NHS hospital and community health services: Non-medical staff in each specified organisation by main staff group as at 30 September each year

					Headcount
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Total specified organisations[1]	10,979	10,226	9,970	10,114	10,428
Professionally qualified clinical staff	5,109	4,828	4,836	5,055	5,383
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	3,744	3,536	3,558	3,716	3,984

NHS hospital and community health services: Non-medical staff in each specified organisation by main staff group as at 30 September each year

Headcount

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	1,365	1,292	1,278	1,339	1,399
Support to clinical staff	4,041	3,747	3,540	3,425	3,302
Support to doctors and nursing staff	3,448	3,150	2,984	2,853	2,693
Support to ST and T staff	593	597	556	572	609
NHS infrastructure support	1,821	1,645	1,588	1,628	1,737
Central functions	702	653	644	682	735
Hotel, property and estates	753	699	677	678	686
Senior managers	101	72	78	69	92
Managers	265	221	189	199	224
Other staff or those with unknown classification	8	6	6	6	6
Suffolk Primary Care Trust	2,181	1,939	1,865	2,129	2,099
Professionally qualified clinical staff	1,068	979	984	1,146	1,084
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	799	733	714	836	748
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	269	246	270	310	336
Support to clinical staff	746	635	579	660	609
Support to doctors and nursing staff	645	533	481	574	531
Support to ST and T staff	101	102	98	86	78
NHS infrastructure support	359	319	296	317	400
Central functions	177	165	150	179	218
Hotel, property and estates	35	37	50	57	53
Senior managers	26	14	22	17	33
Managers	121	103	74	64	96
Other staff or those with unknown classification	8	6	6	6	6
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust[2]	3,651	3,530	3,501	3,434	3,896
Professionally qualified clinical staff	1,940	1,855	1,889	1,842	2,319
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,327	1,270	1,319	1,275	1,740
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	613	585	570	567	579
Support to clinical staff	1,350	1,342	1,296	1,283	1,256
Support to doctors and nursing staff	1,016	991	973	938	914
Support to ST and T staff	334	351	323	345	342
NHS infrastructure support	361	333	316	309	321
Central functions	211	187	176	170	182
Hotel, property and estates	95	93	87	90	90
Senior managers	9	11	10	10	14
Managers	46	42	43	39	35
Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	2,362	2,217	2,073	1,907	1,939
Professionally qualified clinical staff	794	766	726	762	768
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	632	614	593	621	607
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	162	152	133	141	161
Support to clinical staff	974	907	820	612	624
Support to doctors and nursing staff	952	881	799	587	571
Support to ST and T staff	22	26	21	25	53
NHS infrastructure support	594	544	527	533	547
Central functions	215	201	209	217	212
Hotel, property and estates	291	272	255	240	248
Senior managers	19	12	14	12	19
Managers	69	59	49	64	68
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	2,785	2,540	2,531	2,644	2,494
Professionally qualified clinical staff	1,307	1,228	1,237	1,305	1,212
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	986	919	932	984	889
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	321	309	305	321	323
Support to clinical staff	971	863	845	870	813
Support to doctors and nursing staff	835	745	731	754	677
Support to ST and T staff	136	118	114	116	136
NHS infrastructure support	507	449	449	469	469
Central functions	99	100	109	116	123
Hotel, property and estates	332	297	285	291	295
Senior managers	47	35	32	30	26

NHS hospital and community health services: Non-medical staff in each specified organisation by main staff group as at 30 September each year

Headcount

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Managers	29	17	23	32	25

[1] It is impossible to accurately map work force figures to geographical areas. The organisations listed cover the parliamentary constituencies of Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, West Suffolk and South Suffolk.
[2] Figures include bank nurses. The number of qualified bank nurses reported by *Ipswich Hospitals NHS Trust increased by 450 between 2008 and 2009*. On 1 October 2006 Ipswich PCT, Suffolk Coastal PCT, Central Suffolk PCT and Suffolk West PCT merged to form Suffolk Primary Care Trust. Figures for 2005 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.
Note:
Data Quality. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census

Lyme Disease

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 233-34W, on Lyme disease, whether he has plans to record confirmed cases of Lyme disease; if he will make Lyme disease a notifiable disease; and whether he has had discussions with the Scottish Executive on the co-ordination of methods to collect data on the number of cases of Lyme disease. [33952]

Anne Milton: *Borrelia* spp, the causative agent of Lyme disease, was made a notifiable causative agent in the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, and all laboratory isolations of *Borrelia* spp in a human sample must now be notified to the Health Protection Agency in England. This mirrors arrangements in Scotland, where *Borrelia burgdorferi* is a notifiable causative agent under the Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008.

Medical Equipment: Contamination

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to the NHS on steps to prevent hospital instruments contaminated by other patients' flesh and bone from being used in operations. [33659]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department provides guidance to the national health service on the process of decontamination in "Health Technical Memorandum 01-01: Decontamination of reusable medical devices Part A: Management and environment", which has already been placed in the Library. Specific guidance on the washing and disinfection of surgical instruments is provided in three volumes of "Health Technical Memorandum 2030: Washer-disinfectors."

The documents have been placed in the Library.

Mental Health Services

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many low-security psychiatric beds are available in NHS hospitals; [33635]

(2) how many places are available in *(a)* secure hospitals and *(b)* regional medium secure units. [33636]

Paul Burstow: This information is not available in the requested format. Information is collected centrally on mental health bed occupancy levels, but this does not identify security levels. According to data collected by the Department of Health's KH03 form, as of September 2010 there were 23,280 beds available in national health service organisations to mental health patients in England, of which an average of 20,165 were occupied. More information about NHS bed occupancy is available from the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/Beds/DH_083781

We also collect data on the number of beds in high secure services, which are in the following table:

High secure services 2010-11 bed capacity

Number

Service	*Ashworth*	*Broadmoor*	*Rampton*	*Total*
Male personality disorder	228	232	201	661
Male learning disability	0	0	48	48
Male dangerous and severe personality disorder	0	48	60	108
Female	0	0	50	50
Total	228	280	359	867

Source: High Secure Commissioning Team.

NHS 111

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology will be used by Sheffield University to evaluate the effectiveness of the NHS 111 helpline pilots. [33600]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS 111 pilots will be evaluated using a baseline and change methodology, alongside comparison with control sites. It combines qualitative and quantitative methods, including a population survey, user survey, analysis of service usage, and performance data from the NHS 111 pilots. The evaluation will also be informed by qualitative staff interviews and workshops.

NHS: Negligence

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has paid to patients in ex-gratia payments to avoid ligation proceedings in each of the last three years. [33657][1]

Mr Simon Burns: HM Treasury consider ex-gratia payments to be a form of special payment. HM Treasury's definition includes personal injury claims that are settled out of court. Information about local ex-gratia payments made by the national health service to patients to avoid litigation is not held centrally. Local NHS bodies record 'losses and special payments' in their consolidated accounts and these will include all ex-gratia payments, not just those paid to patients or to avoid litigation.

The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) records data held centrally specifically on ex-gratia payments made for clinical, employer and public liability claims settled out of court. As the NHSLA settles the vast majority of its claims this way, they fall under HM Treasury's definition of ex-gratia. Data provided by the NHSLA will cover payments to patients, although some will be made to families/dependants, employees and visitors.

1.*[Official Report, 1 February 2011, Vol. 522, c. 7MC.]*

Data on actual payments made each year can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The NHSLA has therefore supplied data in the following table which shows the total amount of damages paid on claims settled out of court where the claim was closed between 2007-10. It should be noted that some actual payments for these claims may have been made in earlier years to when the claim was closed.

£

	Clinical liability	*Employer and public liability*	*Total amount paid*
2007-08	225,023,267	22,257,496	247,280,762
2008-09	196,195,332	23,323,690	219,519,022
2009-10	230,996,377	20,312,554	466,799,784

NHS: Pay

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many chief executives of NHS trusts have had a reduction in the level of their salary since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [34061]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

National health service trusts may pay their staff such remuneration and allowances, and employ them on such terms and conditions, as they consider appropriate. NHS trusts are public bodies and the remuneration of their senior executive teams is a matter of public record and published in their annual accounts.

On 24 May 2010, Sir David Nicholson wrote to chairs of NHS trusts, strongly encouraging them to consider their approach to pay this year in the context of the Government's wider approach to senior pay in the public sector, and in the light of decisions made for other NHS organisations. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Reorganisation

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of his proposed restructuring of the NHS. [34246]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' laid out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured and run, including for the structures of primary care trusts, strategic health authorities and the Department. The costs of the transition to the new system will be published shortly in an impact assessment.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many responses his Department received from GPs to its recent consultation Equity and Excellence, Liberating the NHS. [34332]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department received some 6,000 responses to the NHS White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" and the associated consultation documents. Around 200 of these responses were from individual general practitioners (GPs), GP practices or consortia. There may well have been further responses from individual GPs who did not identify themselves and who will therefore not be included in this figure. We also received submissions from organisations that represent GPs, for instance, NHS Alliance and the Royal College of GPs.

Pleural Plaques: Sunderland

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of cases of pleural plaques in residents of Sunderland. [34034]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has made no recent estimate of the number of cases of pleural plaques in residents of Sunderland. However, information on the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with a named primary or secondary diagnosis of pleural plaques (ICD-10 code J92) in the Sunderland Primary Care Trust (PCT) area has been set out in the following table.

Number of FCEs with a named primary or secondary diagnosis of pleural plaques

	Sunderland Teaching PCT
2009-10	676

Notes:
1. A FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital, or in different stays in the same year.
2. The number of episodes where this diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07, and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics record. Each episode is only counted once, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.
Source:
NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Primary Care Trusts: Redundancy

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of primary care trust staff who have been made redundant in the latest period for which figures are available. [34247]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of primary care trust staff who have been made compulsorily redundant for the latest period for which figures are available is:

Quarter 2 (July to September) of 2010-11: 157 staff were made compulsorily redundant.

Radiotherapy

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of Cyberknife technology for cancer treatment. [33590]

Paul Burstow: Cyberknife delivers stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT). A sub-group to look at the co-ordination and development of SBRT has been established by the National Radiotherapy Implementation Group (NRIG) to inform its forthcoming report on radiosurgery. The sub-group is undertaking a comparative evaluation of the different machines capable of delivering SRBT, including Cyberknife. The group will also consider the available evidence and provide advice to commissioners on this treatment.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) plans to use the work of NRIG to identify whether there are any indications that would be appropriate for them to evaluate further via the Medical Technologies Advisory Committee or other programmes at NICE.

"Improving Outcomes—A Strategy for Cancer", published January 2011, acknowledges the importance of providing patients with access to new and emerging treatments and techniques as soon as possible. The strategy confirms our intention to publish guidance on stereotactic body radiotherapy this year.

South London Healthcare NHS Trust: Ancillary Staff

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-medical staff were employed by South London Healthcare NHS Trust in the latest period for which figures are available. [33584]

Mr Simon Burns: Figures on how many non-medical staff were employed by South London Healthcare NHS Trust in the last period for which figures are available are provided in the following table:

NHS hospital and community health services: Non-medical staff in the South London Healthcare NHS Trust by main staff group, as at 30 September 2010

	Headcount
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	5,384
Professionally qualified clinical staff	2,733
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	2,031
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical (ST&T) staff	702
Support to clinical staff	1,925
Support to doctors and nursing staff	1,523
Support to ST&T staff	390
Support to ambulance staff	13
NHS infrastructure support	733
Central functions	498
Hotel, property and estates	160
Senior managers	19
Managers	56

Notes:
Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components. When overall headcount figures are split into sub categories the sum of the sub totals may exceed the overall sum due to inclusion of staff in multiple sub categories.
Data Quality:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.
Monthly data:
As from 21 July 2010 The NHS Information Centre has published experimental, provisional monthly NHS work force data. As expected with provisional, experimental statistics, some figures may be revised from month to month as issues are uncovered and resolved. The monthly work force data are not directly comparable with the annual work force census: they only include those staff on the Electronic Staff Record (ESR) (i.e. they do not include primary care staff or bank staff), they also include locum doctors (not counted in the annual census). There are also new methods of presenting data (headcount methodology is different and there is now a role count). This information is available from September 2009 onwards at the following website:
www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/provisionalmonthlyhchsworkforce
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care Monthly Workforce Statistics.

Transition Programme

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the letter from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality of 20 December 2010, (1) what the constituent parts are of the Transition Programme; and what the *(a)* terms of reference, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* membership is of the working groups involved in their delivery; [34327]

(2) what programme boards were involved in the Transition Programme, referred to in the letter sent to the right hon. Member for Wentworth and Dearne from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health of 20 December 2010; what the membership is of each such board; on what dates such boards have held meetings; and what the frequency of meetings of each such board is. [34328]

Mr Simon Burns: The constituent parts of the transition programme consist of:

1st Tier: Departmental Board—Chair: Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State

2nd Tier: DH Executive Board—Chair: Una O'Brien, Permanent Secretary (formerly the Transition Board)

3rd Tier: Transition Programme Board—Chair: Richard Douglas, Director General, Policy, Strategy and Finance

4th Tier: Commissioning Development Board—Chair: Barbara Hakin

Provider Development Board—Chair: Ian Dalton.

The purpose, terms of reference and membership for these groups have been placed in the Library.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the letter from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Quality of 20 December 2010, if he will publish *(a)* the column headings for each risk register maintained by each constituent part of the Transition Programme, *(b)* the name and number of each individual risk, *(c)* the estimated likelihood and severity of each risk in its unmitigated form, *(d)* the estimated likelihood and severity of each risk in its residual form, *(e)* whether the risk mitigation on each risk was to tolerate, treat or terminate and *(f)* the date on which any risks were escalated to a higher level and to whom such risks were escalated for each risk register maintained by each constituent part of the transition programme. [34329]

Mr Simon Burns: The right hon. Member submitted a Freedom of Information request for information on the risk register on 29 November 2010. This request was turned down and following an appeal by the right hon. Member the Department is conducting an internal review, which is expected to be completed by 4 February. A full reply on conclusion of the review will be provided to the right hon. Member and a copy will be placed in the Library.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the letter from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Quality of 20 December 2010, what the escalation route was from programme boards to higher levels of the transition programme. [34330]

Mr Simon Burns: The transition programme consists of a collection of implementation programmes, which have an agreed governance structure. The programmes escalation route includes four tiers, as follows:

Top Tier: Departmental Board

3rd Tier: Departmental Executive Board (Formerly the Transition Board)

2nd Tier: Transition Programme Board

Bottom Tier: Commissioning Development Board

Provider Development Board.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: Compensation

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many claims to the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease scheme have been *(a)* made and *(b)* settled from individuals in (i) England, (ii) Scotland and (iii) Wales since the scheme's inception. [34392]

Charles Hendry: The total number of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) claims received by the Department by the deadline to register a claim in March 2004 was 591,758, of which 591,677 have been settled by payment, denial or withdrawal as at December 2010. A breakdown of this by England, Scotland and Wales is shown in the following table:

	Total claims received	*Claims settled*
COPD claims England	476,985	476,919
COPD claims Scotland	29,405	29,401
COPD claims Wales	80,086	80,072
Total COPD claims received	591,758	591,677

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average award made through the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease scheme has been since the scheme's inception. [34393]

Charles Hendry: Of the 591,768 claims made by the deadline to register a claim in March 2004, 454,686 have been settled by payment and the average award of this cohort was £5,360. Once Compensation Recovery Unit payments are taken into account the average payment was £5,210. The settlement bandings for those claims that have been settled via the main claims handling scheme (i.e. excluding those that have settled via Entry of Judgment[1] in England and Wales or the Unaccepted Offers Protocol (UOP) in Scotland or without going through the full medical process nor the Fast Track Scheme) are:

Main scheme settlement bandings	*Live*	*Widow*	*Estate*	*Total*
Less than £1,000	35,547	15,311	34,176	85,034
£1,000-5,000	46,918	15,462	28,406	90,786
£5,000-10,000	6,642	3,750	22,099	32,491
£10,000-20,000	5,222	7,432	17,190	29,844
More than £20,000	6,087	12,125	11,147	29,359
Total	100,416	54,080	113,018	267,514

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how long on average claims to the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease scheme have taken to settle since the scheme's inception. [34394]

Charles Hendry: Given the scale of the compensation scheme and the wide range of issues that effected claims progression it is not possible to produce a fully meaningful average figure. However, the following table provides a profile for the 591,677 claims settled to date. 82% of claims were settled within five years. It should be noted that this includes claims denied, withdrawn and struck out, as well as those claims settled by payment:

Settlement timing profile	*Claim registration to date of settlement*
<1 year	17,756
1-2 years	115,890
2-3 years	144,437
3-4 years	124,741
4-5 years	85,719
5-6 years	40,150
6-7 years	22,747
7-8 years	14,711
8-9 years	10,149
9-10 years	7,066
10 years+	8,311
Total	591,677

The main reasons for delays in settlement related to the involvement of third party employers, claimants becoming protected parties or the death of the claimant while the claim remained in process.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much administration of the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease scheme has cost to the public purse in each year since its inception. [34396]

Charles Hendry: As at 31 October 2010, these costs amounted to £715 million since April 1999 in relation to the administration of the COPD and VWF compensation schemes and other coal health related claims.

These costs include the Department's claims handling, legal, records management, audit activity and associated administrative costs.

Administrative costs cannot be broken down by individual compensation scheme.

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[1] Entry Of Judgment claims were those where the claimant did not accept the compensation offer but the Judge overseeing the British Coal Respiratory Disease Litigation ruled that the award should be made and the claim closed. The Unaccepted Offers Protocol was the Scottish equivalent of this arrangement.

A yearly breakdown of expenditure is as follows:

	£ million
April 1999 to March 2003	[1]139.8
2003-04	84.4
2004-05	103.3
2005-06	101.5
2006-07	84.2
2007-08	81.1
2008-09	61.1
2009-10	47.8
2010-11 (up to 31 October 2010)	12.1

[1] Please note that information for this period cannot be broken down by year.

Eaga: Contracts

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contracts and grants his Department and its predecessor awarded to Eaga in each of the last three years; and for what purpose each was awarded. [33772]

Gregory Barker: In 2005, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs awarded a contract to Eaga plc to manage the Warm Front scheme that provides heating and insulation measures to vulnerable private sector households. The contract runs to the end of March 2011 with an option to extend for a further two years.

Energy Supply

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take as a result of his forecasts of levels of energy supply and demand; and if he will make a statement. [34404]

Charles Hendry: The Energy Bill seeks to amend existing legislation to require the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority, which governs Ofgem, to produce an annual report on the security of the electricity supply, including how much capacity GB will need in the future. The report is to be provided to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State is best placed to make the judgment, taking into account factors such as costs and acceptability of interruption of supply.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will review the range of assessments provided by Ofgem and will consider the wider political landscape and work across DECC, for example work related to energy efficiency and meeting renewables and emissions targets.

My right hon. Friend will then publish his assessment of capacity needed to meet electricity demand in Great Britain.

Energy: Prices

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had recent discussions with Ofgem on the compliance of energy suppliers with the Overarching Standards of Conduct with respect to the requirement not to supply products that are unnecessarily complex or confusing; and if he will make a statement. [33995]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet with Ofgem on a regular basis to discuss market issues. Ofgem is currently reviewing the retail market and, as part of this, will be looking at how effectively the energy companies have implemented the reforms introduced following its 2008 Energy Supply Probe, including overarching standards of conduct, one of which concerned the offering of unnecessarily complex or confusing products. Ofgem plan to complete its review by March 2011.

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to give Ofgem the power to investigate energy suppliers that sell energy products that are unnecessarily complex or confusing; and if he will make a statement. [33996]

Charles Hendry: To meet its principal duty, to protect the interests of consumers, Ofgem actively monitors the activities of licence holders and therefore does not need the additional powers proposed to investigate energy suppliers' compliance with the overarching standards, one of which concerned the offering of unnecessarily complex or confusing products.

In an open letter Ofgem have stated that they have regard to the overarching standards when considering their priorities for investigating potential licence breaches and when considering consumer detriment in the context of investigations.

This letter is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/ensuppro/
Documents1/
Standards%20of%20conduct%20for%20suppliers%
20in%20the%20retail%20energy%20market.pdf

In addition, Ofgem are currently reviewing the retail market and, as part of this, will be looking at how effectively the energy companies have implemented the reforms introduced following its 2008 Energy Supply Probe, including overarching standards of conduct. Ofgem plan to complete its review by March 2011.

Environment Protection: North East England

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what support his Department is providing for start-up and growth of green industries in the North East. [33593]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

We are making available a number of support measures, which will benefit the North East and other regions:

Support start ups, including those in green industries, through a tailored package of measures, including the new enterprise allowance, to help the unemployed become self employed.

Three year, £1.4 billion regional growth fund designed to stimulate enterprise by providing support for projects and programmes with significant potential for economic growth.

Additionally, from DECC £60 million nationally for upgrading of ports infrastructure for offshore wind manufacturing.

Local enterprise partnerships will lead on determining local strategies to improve the environment for business and setting local priorities.

Through UKTI we provide support to SMEs to access international markets.

In due course, we expect the Green Investment Bank to provide financing for green infrastructure projects. The bank will have a national remit.

Specifically in the North East:

Support of up to £20.7 million to support Nissan's manufacturing of electric vehicles and associated battery production in Sunderland.

£2.4 million has already been made available this financial year to the North East under the Government's Plugged-In Places programme, with a further £1.5 million made available out to 2013. The North East's Plugged-in Places programme will see around 1,300 vehicle charging points being installed across the region over the next three years.

National Renewable Energy Centre (Narec) in Blyth will receive £11.5 million for its offshore wind blade test site and £18.5 million for its offshore wind turbine test site and £10 million for its marine drive train facility.

Tees Valley Industrial programme — £42 million committed to accelerate industrial transition in the area particalarly in the areas of low carbon and advanced manufacturing.

Natural Gas

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects on global warming of an expansion of the extraction of gas from shale; and what the policy of his Department is on such extraction. [33414]

Charles Hendry: Shale gas exploitation in other countries suggests that the impact on global warming from the extraction and use of this resource can sometimes be higher than that of conventional gas, because of increased drilling density and well site operations. This impact is expected to vary more between individual shale gas exploitation operations than it does between individual conventional gas fields, making it relatively location dependent.

In the UK the first exploration well designed to evaluate shale gas potential is currently drilling west of Blackpool. However there is no current commercial production of shale gas within UK territory and no assessment of the potential impact on global warming of such operations has yet been made.

The Government support industry's endeavours in pursuing such energy sources so long as the tapping of such resources proves to be technically, economically, and environmentally viable.

Natural Gas: Safety

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many reported gas escapes there were in December *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2008; and which (i) company and (ii) gas network was responsible in each such case. [34069]

Charles Hendry: This is a matter for Ofgem who inform us that they do not collect this information on a monthly basis. However annual information is available for the number of public reports of gas escapes made to the four gas distribution network operators as set out in the following table.

Gas distribution network operators

	National grid gas	*Scotia gas networks*	*Northern gas networks*	*Wales and West utilities*	*Total*
2007-08	602,205	335,555	148,639	112,126	1,198,525
2008-09	603,685	364,082	127,088	113,156	1,208,011
2009-10	580,371	345,624	122,957	109,446	1,158,398
Total	1,786,261	1,045,261	398,684	334,728	3,564,934

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many reportable gas escapes were still awaiting repair in the latest period for which figures are available; and which *(a)* company and *(b)* gas network was responsible for the outstanding repairs in each such case. [34070]

Charles Hendry: This is a matter for Ofgem who inform us that they do not currently collect data on the number of escapes awaiting repair. However, Ofgem is developing a way to assess the time taken by Gas Distribution Network operators to repair gas escapes and how they prioritise their work to deal with escapes as part of the forthcoming price control.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average time taken to repair reportable gas escapes in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [34071]

Charles Hendry: This is a matter for Ofgem who inform us that they do not hold data on the time taken to repair gas escapes. However, Ofgem are developing a way to assess the time taken by Gas Distribution Network operators to repair gas escapes and how they prioritise their work to deal with escapes as part of the forthcoming price control.

Natural Gas: Storage

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many natural gas storage facilities *(a)* are in operation, *(b)* are under development; *(c)* have received planning permission, *(d)* are awaiting planning permission and *(e)* have been announced but are not yet subject to a planning application; what the (i) capacity or planned capacity and (ii) location is for each such facility; and what the planned commissioning date is for each such facility. [33956]

Charles Hendry: Most of the information requested is published in National Grid's annual "Ten Year Statement", last up-dated in December 2010; see Tables 4.7C-F. The "Ten Year Statement" is available at:

http://www.nationalgrid.com/NR/rdonlyres/E60C7955-5495-4A8A-8E80-8BB4002F602F/44779/TenYearStatement2010.pdf

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the suitability of salt caverns for storage of natural gas reserves. [33957]

Charles Hendry: Storage of Natural Gas in salt caverns is a mature and well-established technology and there are currently over 70 salt storage facilities in use around the world.

Under the GB consents regime, site-specific issues are a matter for consideration during the consents application process.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* other communication his Department has had with the Crown Estate on the charging rates applied by the Crown Estate for use of depleted offshore gas fields under its ownership for gas storage in the last 12 months; and what the outcome of such communications was. [33959]

Charles Hendry: The Department has had no communication with the Crown Estate on this subject since 6 May 2010.

Nuclear Power Stations

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will establish an inquiry into the need for new nuclear power stations. [34403]

Charles Hendry: No. The Government, following extensive public consultation, are satisfied that there is a clear need for new nuclear power stations to help provide the UK with secure low carbon energy.

Renewable Energy

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely proportion of energy which will be generated from renewable sources in 2020. [34405]

Charles Hendry: The UK has a target to generate 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. The Government are committed to achieving this target.

Recent analysis indicates that this will require overall renewable energy generation of 234 Terawatt hours (TWh) across the electricity, heat and transport sectors, based on central projections of energy consumption for 2020.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the expenditure required in the UK in order to meet renewable energy obligations. [33422]

Charles Hendry: The UK has a legally binding 2020 target of delivering 15% of energy consumption coming from renewable energy. To meet this, it is estimated that around 30% of electricity, around 12% of heat and around 10% of transport demand will come from renewable sources.

In order to deliver these levels of renewable energy, expenditure defined as tax and spend by the Office for National Statistics will be incurred through the Renewables Obligation, Feed-in tariffs, the Renewable Heat Incentive and the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation.

The spending is estimated at £32 billion* from 2011 to 2020 under the Renewables Obligation[1]; £3.6 billion* under small-scale feed-in tariffs[2]; £9.8 billion* under the Renewable Heat Incentive[3]; and £8.9 billion* under the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation[4].

Note that these figures represent the total spending. Analysis in 2009 was published showing lower figures based on the additional level of spending resulting from the increase in renewables ambition, on a different price basis. These figures are based on the latest published analysis for the RHI and FITs and do not take into account announcements in spending review 2010.

Spending through these renewable financial incentives at the point of operation/energy use will leverage significant amounts of up-front private sector investment in new renewable generating capacity. 2009 analysis estimated that there would be around £100 billion of investment opportunities in renewable electricity and renewable heat to 2020.

"*" = In 2010 prices discounted at the social discount rate of 3.5% to 2011.

Sources:

[1] DECC calculations and modelling by Redpoint Energy, 2009

[2] DECC modelling and analysis for the Final Impact Assessment of Feed-in Tariffs for Small-Scale, Low Carbon, Electricity Generation, February 2010

[3] DECC calculation and modelling by NERA for the Renewable Heat Incentive consultation document, February 2010

[4] Department for Transport analysis

UK Smart Grid

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to support the development of a UK smart grid. [33122]

Charles Hendry: We are developing policies to ensure that electricity system infrastructure can meet the key challenges for the future network and system balancing. These policy issues will form part of the Electricity Market Reform White Paper this spring. We are setting up with Ofgem a smart grid forum to guide the actions that we are taking to address future challenges for electricity networks.

DECC is also managing the implementation phases of the smart metering programme, which will see the rollout of smart meters to GB households and many businesses, paving the way for smart grids.

Ofgem has allocated £500 million in funding to encourage innovation in distribution networks over the next five years. In addition, by the end of this financial year, DECC will have awarded £2.8 million to projects through its smart grids capital grants programme under the low carbon investment fund.

Wind Power: Standards

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of wind turbines that did not reach their average rated speed in the last 12 months. [34407]

Charles Hendry: The Department does not hold information on the average load factors for individual wind turbines or wind farms. The average load factor for UK onshore wind turbines in 2009 was 26.9%. The equivalent figure for offshore wind was 33.7%. Figures for the UK in 2010 will be available following the publication of the Digest of UK Energy Statistics in July 2011.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on providing financial support to the hybrid motor vehicle industry. [33634]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

To meet UK carbon targets, the road transport sector needs to be decarbonised and a key element will be the move to ultra-low carbon vehicles, including electric and plug-in hybrid. The spending review announced provision of in excess of £400 million over the lifetime of this Parliament to support the decarbonisation of road transport. This support will include:

A commitment to a national recharging infrastructure for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, informed by the eight Plugged-In Places (PIP) pilot projects which will deliver approximately 8,000 charging points, between 2010-13;

The Plug-In Car Grant (PICG) which was successfully launched on 1 January 2011. The PICG promotes consumer uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles by providing 25% of the cost of the car up to a cap of £5,000 to both private and business purchasers of eligible cars (which include the Toyota Prius plug-in hybrid);

The Technology Strategy Board's (TSB) core budget for the upcoming spending review period has yet to be allocated and until such a time it will not be possible for the TSB to specify the level of funding that it is likely to allocate towards the development of Low Carbon Vehicle technology. The TSB has been working in close partnership with this Department, the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to support Low Carbon Vehicle Research and Development (R and D) under a range of themes—including hybrid vehicle technology—prioritised by an industry-led steering group and informed by the New Automotive Innovation and Growth Team Technology Roadmap and Automotive Council findings. Funding is not, however, pre-allocated to specific themes, but subject to a competitive process, and success will depend on the quality of the proposals submitted.

The projected R and D spend over the period 1 April 2011-31 March 2015 by the EPSRC in support of the hybrid motor vehicle industry is shown in the following table (based on current grants only).

Financial year	*EPSRC spend on hybrid motor vehicle research (£)*
2011-12	8,115,823.84
2012-13	4,065,194.30
2013-14	2,369,970.74
2014-15	1,312,166.87
Total	15,863,155.75

The DfT funded Low Carbon Vehicle Public Procurement programme has provided 200 all-electric and hybrid vans into public sector fleets. The value of this has been £6 million in the financial year 2010-11, and will be £1 million in 2011-12.

DfT pays a bus subsidy incentive, at a rate of 6 pence per kilometre, to bus operators in England who use low carbon buses (including hybrid buses) on their local bus network.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Housing

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel at the MOD Hospital Unit, Portsmouth, are housed in private sector rental accommodation. [33798]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit in Portsmouth currently has 122 service personnel housed in private sector rental accommodation.

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on *(a)* substitute single service accommodation and *(b)* food and incidental allowances in the MOD Hospital Unit, Portsmouth in the latest period for which figures are available. [33799]

Mr Robathan: The following table shows how much was spent on Substitute Single Service Accommodation (SSSA) and Food and Incidental Allowance in the Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit, Portsmouth for the last financial year:

Period financial year	*Description*	*Total (£)*
2009-10	Excess rent and lodging allowance	525,258.57
2009-10	Messing and food allowance	173,410.36

In April 2005, at the beginning of relocation of our military staff to the new Queen Alexandra Hospital (QAH) at Cosham, the use of service accommodation within the Naval Base and wider Portsmouth area was considered, but none of sufficient quantity was available. As time was the key driver for locating staff nearer to the QAH, accommodation in Fort Blockhouse was not considered: the time taken and distance travelled to get staff to and from work from Fort Blockhouse was well outside Ministry of Defence policy on Tri-Service accommodation. To meet the needs and entitlements of our staff, the decision to use SSSA was deemed to be the minimum necessary response under the prevailing circumstances and was in full accord with extant policies. The situation is monitored on a continuous basis.

Armed Forces: Postal Services

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will examine the reasons for the *(a)* delay and *(b)* restrictions affecting people sending parcels to 25 Flight Army Air Corps in Belize. [34217]

Peter Luff: British Forces Post Office (BFPO) mail to Belize is transported through the USA and was therefore temporarily affected by the security restrictions resulting from the toner cartridge bomb alert in early November 2010. The backlog was cleared and deliveries made to Belize in time for Christmas. As a result of this incident the USA has imposed additional restrictions of the carriage of mail weighing more than 500 grams.

Delivery times for BFPO mail/parcels to all destinations are regularly monitored and the average time for delivery from anywhere in the UK to Belize through the BFPO system is currently between four and 11 days, largely dependent on whether the package weighs more than 500 grams.

Colchester Garrison

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* size and *(b)* structure was of the Ministry of Defence Police force presence at Colchester Garrison on (i) 31 May 1997, (ii) 31 May 2001, (iii) 31 May 2005, (iv) 31 May 2010 and (v) the latest date for which figures are available. [34333]

Mr Robathan: The size and structure of Ministry of Defence police (MDP) officers employed at Colchester Garrison on 31 May 1997, 31 May 2001, 31 May 2005, 31 May 2010 and the latest date for which figures are available 17 January 2011, are as follows:

Date	*Inspector*	*Sergeant*	*Constable*	*Total*
31 May 1997	1	5	26	32
31 May 2001	1	5.5	25.5	32
31 May 2005	1	4.5	14.5	20
31 May 2010	0	1	2	3
17 January 2011	0	1	2	3

The current complement of MDP provides a community policing role at Colchester Garrison. Security is provided by the Ministry of Defence Guard Service (MGS), the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) and members of the Army unit stationed at the Garrison.

Defence: Sales

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who purchased the five BAe 125 aircraft sold by his Department in 2007; how that sale was organised; and if he will make a statement. [33748]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The five BAe 125 aircraft were sold to a private company, Everett Engineers. This followed a competition run on the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) behalf by Witham (Specialist Vehicles) Limited, one of the contractors used to dispose of surplus defence equipment through specialist marketing agreements which have been competed in accordance with European Union procurement regulations. The agreements cover the collection, storage, marketing and sale of the equipment, and any receipts due are returned to the MOD. The five aircraft had been in service since 1965.

Departmental Pensions

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department of the proposed change to the indexing of public sector benefits and pensions in each year to 2020. [34509]

Mr Gerald Howarth: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 587-89W.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will offer all surviving veterans exposed to radiation during the nuclear weapons tests held by the UK Government in the 1950s a medical examination to assess any effects on their health resulting from this exposure. [34081]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence has recently placed a contract with an expert independent contractor for an audit of health needs among UK atmospheric nuclear test veterans. This will gather and record the direct experiences and views of nuclear test veterans in relation to the health and social care needs using a postal survey and focus groups.

The Department of Health and NHS have lead responsibility for the health assessment and provision of health care services for ex-service personnel. Radiobiological measures were in place for the UK atmospheric tests and independent studies by the National Radiological Protection Board and International Cancer Research since then have found no evidence of a general adverse effect on health compared to a matched control group.

Germany: Military Bases

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what obligations he is under regarding the refurbishment of military bases in Germany to be vacated by UK forces. [34225]

Nick Harvey: The Germany estate is managed as set out within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and its supplementary agreement.

There are no obligations on the Secretary of State to refurbish military bases in Germany upon vacation.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what obligations he is under regarding the environmental restoration of military bases in Germany to be vacated by UK forces. [34226]

Nick Harvey: The Germany estate is managed as set out within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and its supplementary agreement. These agreements do not oblige the Secretary of State to undertake environmental restoration of military bases in Germany.

However, environmental damage caused by UK forces wilfully or by gross negligence can give rise to claims as set out within the agreements. Ministry of Defence policy is to undertake a land quality assessment for sites prior to closure.

Assets disposed of in Germany over the past 15 years have resulted in no claims being raised regarding environmental issues.

Gulf War Syndrome

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what processes his Department has put in place to monitor developments and research into Gulf War Syndrome, related health problems and treatment by the US Department of Veterans Affairs and its Gulf War Veterans Illness Task Force. [34348]

Mr Robathan: The UK maintains close relations with the US Government on this issue. The Ministry of Defence has a British liaison officer based in Washington DC ensuring that the UK has full visibility of US research into Gulf veterans' illness issues, and providing a channel for communicating our own work to interested US parties.

Iraq-Kuwait Conflict: Anniversaries

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what events he plans to hold to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Gulf War. [34347]

Mr Robathan: There are currently no plans for the UK to hold any official events to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Gulf war.

However, an invitation has been received from the Government of Kuwait to take part in activities this year to commemorate the 20th anniversary of their liberation during the first Gulf war as well as the 50th anniversary of their independence from the UK. The first of such events is the Liberation Day parade to be held in Kuwait City in late February at which the UK will be represented by units from the Army, Navy and Royal Air Force as well as senior veterans from the conflict.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF aircraft of each type were *(a)* in service, *(b)* in the forward fleet and *(c)* fit for purpose on the latest date for which figures are available. [33446]

Peter Luff: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures shown are the average for December 2010 and so have been rounded to the nearest aircraft.

In-service aircraft include all bar those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. The forward fleet comprises aircraft which are serviceable or short-term unserviceable. Fit for purpose aircraft include only serviceable aircraft available to the front-line commands for operational and training purposes. The number of aircraft available in each category varies according to normal fleet management activities including requirements for mandated maintenance and upgrade programmes.

Aircraft type	*In-service fleet*	*Forward fleet*	*Fit for purpose*
BAe 146	2	1	1
BAe 125	6	5	4
C-17	6	6	5
Dominie	9	7	5
Harrier[1]	74	41	41
Hawk T1	129	87	57
Hawk T2	17	8	5
Hercules C130K	11	7	5
Hercules C130J	24	19	13
King Air	4	2	2
Nimrod R1	2	1	1
Sentinel	5	4	3
Sentry	6	4	3
Tornado F3	15	12	12
Tornado GR4	137	100	97
TriStar	9	5	2
Tucano	93	52	33
Typhoon	70	44	44
VC10	13	11	7
Vigilant	65	65	59
Viking	82	81	76

[1] Harrier was withdrawn from service on 15 December 2010.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department made of the suitability of the Nimrod MR4A for conversion to the role planned for the RC-135W. [33447]

Peter Luff: Two Nimrod MRA4-based proposals were considered as part of the Airseeker investment appraisal. The RC-135W Rivet Joint option was chosen because it demonstrated best value for money.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flight hours there are on each of the three KC-135 airframes due to be converted to the RC-135W. [33448]

Peter Luff: As at 14 September 2010, the latest date for which figures are available, aircraft one had accumulated 23,200 flying hours, aircraft two 22,200 hours and aircraft three 23,200 flying hours. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 hours.

Military Bases

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military staff were employed at each (i) RAF, (ii) Royal Navy, (iii) army and (iv) Royal Marines base in each year since 1997. [30855]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally or in the format requested. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 5W, to the right hon. and learned Member for North East Fife (Sir Menzies Campbell), which provides some of the information requested on RAF bases. I also refer the hon. Member to Defence Analytical Services and Advice [TSP10] which provides information on the geographical locations of regular forces stationed in the UK. This table can be found at the following website:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=100&pubType=0&date=2010-11-25&PublishTime=09:30:00

Copies of the document have been placed in the Library of the House.

I do, however, recognise the benefits of having this information. While the effort required to produce the RAF data to 2007 was considerable, I have nevertheless asked the Department to investigate to what extent a similar exercise in respect of the other services and civilian personnel would be possible. I will write to the hon. Member once this work is complete.

North Korea: Nuclear Weapons

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the nuclear weapons capability of *(a)* North Korea and *(b)* Iran. [34055]

Nick Harvey: North Korea has conducted two nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009. We currently assess it has produced sufficient plutonium for a small number of nuclear weapons. We have also noted the recent disclosures in November 2010 of a uranium enrichment capability, which could also be used to support a nuclear weapon programme.

Iran is not currently assessed to have nuclear weapons. However it continues to pursue uranium enrichment and the construction of a heavy water research reactor, both of which have military potential, in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. We share the concerns of the International Atomic Energy Agency that Iran has not adequately explained evidence of possible military dimensions to its nuclear programme.

We continue to implement all UN Security Council resolutions relating to North Korea and Iran.

Service Complaints Commissioner: Finance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department allocated to the Service Complaints Commissioner in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [34622]

Mr Robathan: The role of Service Complaints Commissioner came into being on 1 January 2008 and annual reports are published that contain details of expenditure. The following table provides information on the Ministry of Defence actual spend for calendar years 2008 and 2009. Expenditure relating to 2010 is currently being compiled.

	Allocation (£)
2008	316,000
2009	412,300

TREASURY

Banks: Qualifications

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has undertaken an assessment in the last 13 years of the standard of professional education held by British-regulated bankers; and if he will consider making professional certification in financial analysis and risk-taking part of the regulatory process. [33876]

Mr Hoban: This is a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day-to-day operations are independent of Government. I have asked the FSA to write to my hon. Friend on the issue he raises.

Barnett Formula

Bill Esterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has plans to review the Barnett formula. [33671]

Danny Alexander: The coalition Government recognises the concerns expressed on the system of devolved funding. However at this present time the priority must be to reduce the budget deficit and therefore any decisions to change the current system must await the stabilisation of the public finances.

Child Benefit

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of households in *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* Wirral borough council area, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK which will be affected by the proposed withdrawal of child benefit from households which include a higher rate tax payer. [33869]

Mr Gauke: Information on household income for child benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency or local council level.

The number of households affected by the withdrawal of child benefit from families with a higher rate tax payer in 2013:

(c) in the north-west and Merseyside is estimated to be around 120,000;

(d) in the UK is estimated to be around 1.5 million.

Christmas Trees

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of his Department's Christmas tree for 2010. [29987]

Justine Greening: The tree was donated, at no cost, by one of the Treasury's building contractors. The decorations, which can be reused in future years, cost £36.

Crown Estate Commissioners

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of increased revenue payable *(a)* to the Crown Estate Commissioners and *(b)* from the Crown Estate Commissioners to the Treasury as a result of the development and generation of offshore wind energy in each year from 2011 to 2020; and if he will disaggregate such estimates into revenues from projects which are expected to gain their Electricity Act Section 36 consent from Scottish Ministers and those which are expected to obtain consent from the Government. [34221]

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the income from the Crown Estate was in 2009-10; and what estimate has been made of income from the Estate in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13 and *(d)* 2013-14. [34196]

Justine Greening: The Crown Estate is obliged by law to pay its net annual surplus to the Exchequer. In 2009-10 the surplus paid over was £210 million of which rents from offshore wind activity contributed £2.6 million. The Crown Estate's medium-term objective is to generate a return of some £250 million by 2014.

Since the Crown Estate operates commercially, it does not publish annual forecasts of its net surpluses.

Departmental Manpower

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people work in his Department's Devolved Countries unit. [33624]

Danny Alexander: The Devolved Countries Unit is made up of seven people:

One Range F (Deputy Director)

Two Range E (Grade 6/7)

Two Range D (SEO/HEO)

One Range C (EO)

One Range B (AO).

Departmental Redundancy

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department have been made redundant since May 2010. [34535]

Justine Greening: Fewer than five members of staff in HM Treasury have been made redundant since May 2010. It is the Treasury's policy for reasons of confidentiality not to release full details relating to numbers of staff fewer than five where to do so might lead to the identification of individual cases.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff are employed on fixed-term contracts in his Department; and what their job titles are. [34533]

Justine Greening: The following table gives the numbers of full-time equivalent civil servants employed on fixed-term contracts as at 30 November 2010, by Treasury pay range and civil service equivalent job title.

Range	*Job Title*	*Full-time equivalent (FTE)*
G	Director	2
F	Deputy Director	1
E	Grade 7	13.8
D	Senior/Higher Executive Officer	20
C	Executive Officer	3
B	Administrative Officer	8
Student	Student	25
Infrastructure Specialist	n/a	2

Disability

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has undertaken of the effects on people with disabilities of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review for his Department. [34628]

Justine Greening: At the spending review, the Treasury made a qualitative assessment of the likely impact of the spending review on different groups, including disabled people. These assessments were considered when decisions were made. The Treasury published the document "Overview of Impact of the Spending Review 2010 on Equalities" alongside the spending review announcement.

Equality impact assessments, where appropriate, will be considered and published by the relevant Departments as the full details of these policies are finalised. These will include assessments of the impact of policies on disabled people.

The Treasury takes its statutory equality duties very seriously. I work closely with my colleagues, especially the Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities, to ensure that HM Treasury complies with its statutory obligations.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review his proposal to increase the level of duty on fuel in April 2011. [34331]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review along Budget timelines. The Chancellor has announced that Budget 2011 will take place on 23 March.

Financial Services: Standards

Geraint Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will encourage the Financial Services Authority to endorse British Standard *(a)* BS8453 and *(b)* BS18477 on Compliance Frameworks for Financial Services Firms as its confirmed industry guidance. [32331]

Mr Hoban: This is a matter for the Financial Services Authority whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence.

Geraint Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will meet the British Standards Institution to discuss the proposed standard *(a)* BS8453 and *(b)* BS18477 on Compliance Frameworks for Financial Services Forms. [32341]

Mr Hoban: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), has no plans to meet British Standards Institution to discuss the two proposed standards.

Income Tax

Amber Rudd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* East Sussex, *(c)* Hastings and *(d)* Hastings and Rye constituency he estimates will stop paying income tax as a result of the increase in personal income tax allowances in April 2011. [33696]

Mr Gauke: The number of persons taken out of tax as a result of the £1,000 increase in the personal allowance in 2011-12 in England is estimated to be 740,000.

This estimate is based on 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes data projected to 2011-12 in line with the June 2010 Budget assumptions.

It not possible to produce reliable estimates for counties, towns and parliamentary constituencies due to small sample sizes at these levels of geography.

Information on the distribution of taxpayer numbers by local authority and parliamentary constituency in 2007-08 is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#315

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people in each parliamentary constituency who will pay less tax as a result of the personal income tax allowance being increased to £7,475 in April 2011. [33714]

Mr Gauke: In the June 2010 Budget it was estimated that 23 million basic rate taxpayers will gain an average of £170 in 2011-12 as a result of the increase in the personal allowance to £7,475.

This estimate is based on 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes data projected to 2011-12 in line with June 2010 Budget economic assumptions.

Reliable estimates of numbers gaining by parliamentary constituency are not available, as projection of the survey data to 2011-12 does not allow for geographical variations in population changes or economic trends. Latest available survey information on the distribution of taxpayers by local authority and parliamentary constituency in 2007-08 is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#315

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, dated 18 November 2010 in regard to Ms E. Wright. [33655]

Justine Greening: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Public Expenditure

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what total public expenditure in England in 2009-10 was as a proportion of gross domestic product. [32533]

Danny Alexander: Total public expenditure in the United Kingdom in 2009-10 as a proportion of GDP was 47.7%.

The latest figure available for England is for 2008-09, which was published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2010. As a proportion of UK GDP total identifiable expenditure in England in 2008-09 was 28.6%.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1311, what the monetary value of planned expenditure *(a)* in transport infrastructure, *(b)* in housing, *(c)* in job creation, *(d)* in schools, *(e)* in health services and *(f)* in total (i) was under the spending plans of the previous administration and (ii) is following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review in (A) City of York, (B) Yorkshire and the Humber and (C) England in (1) 2010-11, (2) 2011-12 and (3) 2012-13. [32794]

Danny Alexander: The previous Government did not publish spending plans beyond 2010-11. Regional breakdowns of public spending are shown in the Country and Regional Analysis (CRA) published annually as part of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) Command paper. The figures for planned spending by central Government and public corporations for 2010-11 in England and Yorkshire and Humber were published in PESA 2010. These figures are consistent with pre Budget report 2009 and are reproduced in table 1 as follows. We do not hold data for individual locations. PESA 2011 will contain regional breakdowns of spending for 2010-11, based on outturn data for central Government and public corporations, and plans data for local government. The CRA exercise has not been carried out on the spending review outcome.

Table 1: 2010-11 planned CG and PC spending

	£ million
Yorkshire and Humber	31,691
England	310,668

Source:
Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2010 (HMT).

Public Sector: Borrowing

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the Government deficit was as a proportion of gross domestic product on 1 April 2010; [34513]

(2) what the Government deficit was as a proportion of gross domestic product on 15 September 2008; [34517]

(3) what the level of Government borrowing was on 1 April 2010. [34518]

Justine Greening: Outturn figures for the Government deficit (Public Sector Net Borrowing) can be found in the public finances databank on the Treasury website.

Royal Bank of Scotland: Finance

Mr Streeter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the market value of West Register Ltd.; and whether he expects the full market value of West Register to be taken into account in the disposal of the publicly-owned stake in the Royal Bank of Scotland. [33857]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI) manages the Government's investments in Royal Bank of Scotland on an arm's length and commercial basis.

UKFI's remit is to devise and execute a strategy for disposing of the Government's investments in an orderly and active way in line with its overarching objective to create and protect value for the taxpayer as shareholder. Circumstances under which UKFI are likely to be able to sell shares are likely to be those in which the economy and investor confidence is recovering and in which bank share prices are firm.

Sovereign Support Grant

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to establish the sovereign support grant linked to revenue from the Crown Estate. [34192]

Justine Greening: Primary legislation is planned for later this year.

Taxation: Business

Mr David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons his Department treats historic corporate tax matters as confidential. [34408]

Mr Gauke: HMRC is subject to a strict legislative duty of confidentiality by virtue of section 18 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act (CRCA) 2005. HMRC may disclose taxpayer information only in strictly limited circumstances and where there is a legal basis to do so. This statutory duty of confidentiality is not time-limited and therefore "tax matters" which are confidential remain so regardless of the passage of time.

VAT

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of the increase in the rate of value added tax on *(a)* businesses, *(b)* employment and *(c)* economic growth in the (i) North East and (ii) UK. [33694]

Mr Gauke: The answer to this question falls within the responsibilities of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Letter from Robert Chote, dated 13 January 2011:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility, I have been asked to reply to your recent question.

The OBR's November forecast incorporated the estimated impact of policy measures announced at or before the June Budget, including the increase in the standard rate of VAT from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent that took effect from 4 January 2011.

We have not assessed the impact of the change in VAT on businesses or levels of employment. However, the OBR applied a range of fiscal multipliers to help inform its judgement on the impact of VAT on aggregate demand in the economy. These multipliers are set out in Table C8 of the interim OBR's June Budget document. A figure of 0.6, for example, means that a measure which has a direct effect of raising revenue by 1 per cent of GDP is estimated to reduce aggregate demand in the economy by 0.6 per cent in the short run.

The interim OBR's June 2010 Budget forecast and the OBR's November forecast assumed that the increase in the standard rate of VAT from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent would reduce the level of real GDP in 2011/12 by around 0.3 per cent.

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on net incomes of value added tax. [33934]

Mr Gauke: Value added tax is an indirect tax. Although prices on certain goods and services will increase as a result of the rate increase, incomes will be unaffected.

Annex A of the Budget 2010 publication shows that in both cash terms and as a proportion of their income, higher spending households will pay more of the tax increase than lower spending households.

VAT: Charities

Mr Burley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has plans to bring forward legislative proposals to offer to charities delivering public services the same value added tax status as local authorities and the NHS. [33625]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor has no current plans to do this. The VAT which is refunded to local authorities and the NHS is taken into account as part of those bodies' overall funding arrangements. The schemes that are in place are the most efficient means of delivering this part of their funding.

VAT: Construction

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of removing the value added tax liability of self-build projects. [33713]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs already operates a refund scheme for do-it-yourself house builders and converters. Under this scheme, a person who builds a new house, or converts a previously non-residential building into a dwelling, for their own use, can recover the VAT they have incurred on the purchase of building materials.

VAT: Scotland

Ian Murray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from businesses operating in Scotland on the effects of the VAT increase. [33183]

Danny Alexander: None of which I am aware. Decisive action taken by the Government in the spending review and June Budget, including the increase in VAT, will put the public finances and spending on a sustainable footing. This is already helping to keep long-term interest rates low and will encourage businesses to invest and grow.

Welfare Tax Credits

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken for processing notification changes of circumstances to recipients of tax credits resident *(a)* in Makerfield constituency and *(b)* nationally was in the latest period for which figures are available. [34619]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available at constituency level.

HM Revenue and Customs aim to process 98% of reported changes in 30 days. The provisional outturn for 2010-11 up to November 2010 was around 93%.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advocate on Access to Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department has allocated for the costs of the Advocate on Access to Education; and if he will make a statement. [34626]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education are having ongoing discussions with the Advocate on Access to Education how he will fulfil his role and the support he will need. At present no costs have been allocated for this unsalaried post.

Apprentices

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to provide information on Apprenticeship Week to potential apprenticeship providers and apprentices. [34057]

Mr Hayes: This is the fourth year Apprenticeship Week has been held, and it will take place between 7 and 11 February.

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) have been working extensively with partners since planning began in September 2010, and already over 100 events and activities have been agreed, with more being added every day.

I have written to MPs in England inviting them to get involved. So far, 75 have responded saying they would like to attend events or visit apprentices in their place of work or training.

The NAS is also working closely with the media to raise the profile of Apprenticeships Week to ensure some of the key activities are profiled in advance.

Apprentices: Birmingham

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship starts there were in Birmingham Hall Green constituency in each year since 2005. [33605]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts in Birmingham Hall Green constituency from 2005/06 to 2008/09, the latest year for which final-year data are available.

Apprenticeship programme starts, 2005/06 to 2008/09

	2005/06	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
Birmingham Hall Green constituency	260	270	280	370

Notes:
1. Figures for Birmingham Hall Green parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are based upon the home postcode of the learner.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR), this includes information by parliamentary constituency. The latest SFR was published on 16 November 2010:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Broadcasting: ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that the chief executive of Ofcom engages with all interested parties that have concerns over the planned introduction of unlicensed white space devices; and if he will make a statement. [33767]

Mr Prisk: Ofcom, the independent regulator, has engaged extensively with stakeholders on this issue, and recently consulted in November 2010. Ofcom also published two consultations in February and November 2009, regarding cognitive devices using interleaved spectrum, and geolocation for cognitive access respectively. Interested parties have therefore already had a number of opportunities to raise concerns with Ofcom. I anticipate that Ofcom will continue to engage with stakeholders in the future.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support research on myalgic encephalomyelitis; and if he will make a statement. [33971]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is an independent body which receives its grant-in-aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The MRC is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports medical and clinical research. In keeping with the Haldane principle, prioritisation of an individual Research Council's spending within its allocation is not a decision for Ministers.

The MRC supports research into all aspects of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME), and welcomes high-quality research applications in this area. The MRC does not normally commission research but supports high-quality investigator led proposals submitted in open competition, the selection of projects for funding is determined through peer review.

An Expert Group on CFS/ME established by the MRC has worked with experts in the field of CFS/ME and research leaders in aligned areas to identify and prioritise research topics where the MRC might target efforts to encourage and support high-quality proposals. The MRC is now preparing to take forward these recommendations.

Further information on research supported by the MRC and about the work of the group, including the recommendations for research topics and priorities can be found at:

http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Ourresearch/ResearchInitiatives/CFSME/index.htm

Council for Education in the Commonwealth

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to respond to the letter of 10 November 2010 from the Council for Education in the Commonwealth. [33021]

Mr Hayes: I regret that we can find no record of a letter from the Council for Education in the Commonwealth to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, dated 10 November 2010.

If the right hon. Member for Tottenham, or the Council for Education in the Commonwealth would write again, or provide a copy of the original letter, I will respond as soon as possible.

Green Investment Bank

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms to secure *(a)* the effective operation of the Green Investment Bank, *(b)* its independence from the Government and *(c)* its accountability to Parliament have been established. [34093]

Mr Prisk: Green Investment Bank (GIB) proposals are being evaluated for their effectiveness, fiscal affordability and transparency. BIS is working closely with other Government Departments on the development of these proposals, including the Department for Energy and Climate Change, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, HM Treasury, Department for Transport, Department of Communities and Local Government, Cabinet Office and Infrastructure UK.

We are committed to establishing a GIB that is effective in mobilising additional private sector investment into green infrastructure projects. It will, therefore, be run on a commercial basis, employing appropriate private sector skills and expertise and free from ministerial interference in its day-to-day operations.

The GIB's governance arrangements and its legislative requirements, if any, will depend on the nature of its final design. The Government are currently conducting analysis and market testing and plans to publish its conclusions in May 2011.

Higher Education: Medicine

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects of the planned increase in tuition fees on graduate level entry into medicine. [33304]

Mr Willetts: The Government have set out initial plans for the reform of higher education to ensure that we maintain England's world-class university sector underpinned by progressive student funding with the emphasis on first undergraduate degrees.

Unlike the vast majority of students doing a second undergraduate degree, students who choose to take a second undergraduate degree in medicine continue to have access to Government support.

Those taking the normal length five or six-year medicine degree receive a maintenance loan from this Department for the first four years of the course. From the fifth year, the Department of Health (DH) pays the student's tuition charges in full and also provides a means-tested NHS Bursary; the BIS maintenance loan continues to be available at a reduced rate.

Some students take a four-year accelerated graduate-entry medicine degree. Individual universities set their own entry requirements for this course, but most entrants are required to hold an honours degree in an appropriate science discipline. Students are eligible for a maintenance loan from BIS for the first year of the course. For the remaining three years the DH pays the student's tuition charges in full as well as providing a means-tested NHS Bursary; the reduced maintenance loan from BIS is also available.

Lord Browne did not recommend any changes to the funding of postgraduate education but did recommend that participation in postgraduate study should be monitored to identify whether changes to the undergraduate funding and finance system have any effect on entry to postgraduate courses: we have committed to do so.

Higher Education: Radicalism

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many universities are currently deemed vulnerable to extremism; and what advice and guidelines he has offered those universities. [33725]

Mr Willetts: All higher education institutions (in England) received guidance from the (then) Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in 2008 on how to manage the risk and they all receive on-going advice and guidance from their designated police officer and other local partners.

Currently 39 institutions have been identified as more at risk of extremist activity on their campuses and these institutions have received additional briefing and targeted support from central Government.

Higher Education: Scholarships

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students he estimates the National Scholarship Programme will assist in *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [34623]

Mr Willetts: The National Scholarship Programme (NSP) will form part of a coherent package of help targeted on bright potential students from disadvantaged backgrounds. All universities that want to charge a higher graduate contribution than the £6,000 threshold will be obliged to participate in the NSP.

The design of the National Scholarship Programme is by no means finalised. Criteria for the NSP are currently being developed through advice from an expert panel, which includes the National Union of Students, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, Universities UK, Sutton Trust and others. The right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes), the Government's Advocate for Access to Higher Education, has been invited to join the group.

Government investment in the programme will reach £150 million a year by 2014/15. Options could include a first free year for disadvantaged students who were on free school meals or a foundation year to attract young talented people into the professions. Such measures could potentially help around 18,000 students in 2014/15. The number of students who can benefit from the new programme will depend on the final design which is currently being developed with advice from the expert panel.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what eligibility criteria for assistance from the National Scholarship Programme will be in place for 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [34624]

Mr Willetts: The National Scholarship Programme (NSP) will form part of a coherent package of help targeted on bright potential students from disadvantaged backgrounds. All universities that want to charge a higher graduate contribution than the £6,000 threshold will be obliged to participate in the NSP.

Details of the National Scholarship Programme are still being finalised. Criteria for the NSP are currently being developed through advice from an expert panel, which includes the National Union of Students, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, Universities UK, Sutton Trust and others. The right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes), the Government's Advocate for Access to Higher Education, has been invited to join the group.

We want a wide range of people to have the opportunity to benefit from the programme. Likely groups to be supported include disabled students, part-time students, mature-aged students, those who have been eligible for the pupil premium at school, or have received free school meals or whose family income means that they will be eligible to receive student maintenance grants.

Innovation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether small and medium-sized enterprises will be required to pay to use the *(a)* services and *(b)* facilities of his Department's proposed technology and innovation centres. [33708]

Mr Willetts: The technology and innovation centres will operate on a commercial basis and all businesses, including SMEs, will be required to pay commercial charge rates levied by the centres to use most of their services.

The provision of core funding will however ensure that SMEs have access to world-leading technology and expertise that would not otherwise be within reach. It will also enable collaboration, the exchange of tacit knowledge and reach into the knowledge base.

Furthermore, the Technology Strategy Board will work to ensure there are no barriers in place restricting SME access to centres.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons chemical process industries were not included on the initial list of candidate areas for technology and innovation centres in the prospectus published by the Technology Strategy Board. [33712]

Mr Willetts: Chemical process industries were not excluded from the prospectus. The prospectus highlights six broad thematic areas. It notes that under the theme of high-value manufacturing, the Technology Strategy Board will maintain a broad, cross-sector approach, in line with its strategy, embracing all forms of manufacture using metals and composites, in addition to process manufacture including bio-processing.

Mowden Hall

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what criteria he plans to apply to determine the future of his Department's operations at Mowden Hall in Darlington; [33979]

(2) what plans he has for the future of his Department's operations at Mowden Hall in Darlington. [33980]

Mr Davey: The Permanent Secretary has commissioned a review of BIS presence on two sites, of which Mowden Hall, Darlington is one, and Runcorn the other. The review will consider business, personnel and financial aspects.

All staff affected by the review are involved in the process along with the Trades Unions, which have been consulted throughout.

Postgraduate Education: Fees and Charges

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of likely fee levels for postgraduate taught courses in *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [34625]

Mr Willetts: We have no basis on which to make such an assessment. Fee rates for the vast majority of taught postgraduate courses are unregulated and set by each individual institution. Lord Browne noted that taught postgraduate education was a successful part of the higher education system and found no evidence that changes to funding or student finance were needed to support student demand or access. We will set out our priorities for taught postgraduate provision and our response to the postgraduate review in the forthcoming higher education White Paper.

Students: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the repayment terms for part-time students who take out tuition fee loans will be the same as those for full-time students. [33948]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 17 January 2011]:* Under our proposals, from academic year 2012/13—and for the first time—all part-time undergraduate students in England will be eligible for loans for their tuition costs provided: they are personally eligible in terms of residency; they do not already hold a qualification which is at an equivalent or higher level to the qualification for which they now intend to study; they are studying on a course which is designated for support. These criteria match those for full-time studies. The further criterion for part-time students is that they should be studying at an intensity rate which is at least one-quarter of an equivalent full-time course. Currently 60,000 part-time students receive tuition grants. Under our proposals we estimate 175,000 part-timers may be eligible for loans. No eligible part-time students will have to pay for their tuition costs up front and they will not have to begin repaying until they are earning at least £21,000, the same repayment threshold as we propose for full time students.

Training

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to improve the skills base of the labour force. [33756]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 17 November 2010]:* The Government's Skills Strategy, 'Skills for Sustainable Growth', published on 16 November 2010, set out a vision for radical reform of the further education and skills system, based on the coalition principles of fairness, responsibility and freedom.

The strategy will guide the Government's reform of adult learning and skills over the remainder of this Parliament and point the way towards growth in the longer term. Its aim is to improve the skills base of the work force by putting learners, and not the state, in the driving seat. We want to give them the funding, support and information they need to make the right choices for their future.

Apprenticeships will sit at the heart of the system. We will expand the numbers of adult apprenticeships available by up to 75,000 by 2014-15 and reshape them so that technician level—Level 3—becomes the level to which learners and employers should aspire.

Learners will be able to select training and qualifications designed and valued by business, and which are offered by a broad range of autonomous providers competing with one another.

Greatest support from the state will be given to those who need it most. But we will expect learners and employers to share responsibility by contributing towards the costs of intermediate and higher level training.

There will be a new role for employers in shaping the skills system. We need employers to get involved, to shape the system and utilise the skills of their work force, so that they get the most from their investment. We will support them in implementing proposals they make for raising their game on skills.

We will increase competition between providers to drive up standards, and encourage greater diversity of provision. And we will free providers from bureaucratic control and centrally determined targets and radically simplify funding so they can respond to the needs of business and learners.

CABINET OFFICE

Unemployment

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the number of workless households in *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the Wirral borough council area, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK. [33868]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number of workless households in (a) Wallasey constituency (b) the Wirral Borough Council area (c) the North West and (d) the UK (33868).

The estimates provided in the following table come from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. The latest data currently available are for 2009.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. These estimates are such that there is 95 per cent certainty from all possible samples that they will lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Table 1: Number of workless households[1] in Wallasey, Wirral, the North West and the UK

	Thousand			Percentage		
January-December 2009	*Estimate*	*Lower bound[2]*	*Upper bound[2]*	*Estimate*	*Lower bound[2]*	*Upper bound[2]*
Wallasey constituency	9	7	11	29.1	22.5	35.7
Wirral	26	22	30	25.1	21.7	28.5
North West	495	476	513	21.6	20.8	22.3
UK	3,803	3,749	3,857	18.7	18.4	18.9

[1] Households containing at least one person aged 16-64, where all individuals aged 16 or over are not in employment.

[2] 95% confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95% certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Source:

APS household dataset

EDUCATION

Curriculum

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the scope will be of his Department's review of the national curriculum; when it will commence; what the timetable for the review will be; and if he will make a statement; [32615]

(2) who will lead his Department's review of the national curriculum. [32616]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 10 January 2011]:* Full details of our planned review of the national curriculum, including its scope and timetable and how it will be led and managed, will be announced shortly.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people are employed in the administration of the education maintenance allowance. [30232]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), which operates the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Darlington with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 13 December 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ30232 that asked:

"How many people are employed in the administration of the education maintenance allowance."

Administration of the education maintenance allowance is performed by the Learner Support Service, provided under contract to the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) by Capita. The number of people fluctuates during the year, peaking at about 500 but currently 200. They are deployed at two locations, Darlington and Birmingham. The YPLA has a small supervisory team in Sheffield.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the monetary value of education maintenance allowance granted to students in each constituency since the inception of the scheme. [31035]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 January 2011]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), which operates the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Scunthorpe with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students *(a)* in total and *(b)* in year 12 resident in each parliamentary constituency were in receipt of education maintenance allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [31046]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 January 2011]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), which operates the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Scunthorpe with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of young people received education maintenance allowance in each constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [31373]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) which operates the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for the Vale of Clwyd with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Darlington

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people resident in Darlington receive education maintenance allowance. [30073]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), which operates the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Darlington with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 10 December 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ30073 that asked:

"How many young people resident in Darlington receive education maintenance allowance."

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

As at 30 November 2010, the take-up figure for young people in Darlington who have received EMA during the 2010/11 academic year was 1,316.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Free School Meals

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in (i) Reading East constituency and (ii) England were eligible for free school meals on the latest date for which figures are available. [28828]

Mr Gibb: Information on the number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals is shown in the following table.

Maintained primary and state-funded secondary[1, 2] schools: school meal arrangements[3, 4]: in England and Reading East parliamentary constituency, January 2010

	Primary schools[1]			*State-funded secondary schools[2]*		
	No. on roll	*No. of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*% known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*No. on roll*	*No. of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*% known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
England	3,831,470	709,370	18.5	2,864,350	441,140	15.4
Reading East	6,272	803	12.8	3,626	353	9.7

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[4] Includes pupils who have full time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged between 5 and 15.

Note:

England figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals there were in each constituency in each of the last 10 years. [31415]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 December 2010]:* The available information on the number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals, from 2005 onwards, has been placed in the Library.

To provide information prior to 2005 would incur disproportionate cost.

Free School Meals: Kingswood

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils attending schools in Kingswood constituency are eligible for free school meals. [31582]

Mr Gibb: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Wigan (Lisa Nandy) on 22 November 2010, *Official report*, column 92W.

The answer provides information on the number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals by parliamentary constituency.

Free School Meals: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands are in receipt of free school meals. [33033]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 January 2011]:* Information on free school meal eligibility is shown in the table.

The answer includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15 known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals.

Maintained nursery, primary[1], state-funded secondary[1, 2] and special schools[3]: school meal arrangements[4, 5], January 2010

	Maintained nursery and primary[1]			*State-funded secondary[1, 2]*			*Special[3]*		
	Number on roll[4, 5]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4, 5]*	*% known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[4, 5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4, 5]*	*% known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[4, 5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4, 5]*	*% known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
England	3,838,680	711,410	18.5	2,864,350	441,140	15.4	78,330	27,330	34.9
West Midlands	432,020	94,930	22.0	323,780	57,770	17.8	10,620	4,000	37.7

Maintained nursery, primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special schools[3]: school meal arrangements[4,5], January 2010

	Maintained nursery and primary[1]			State-funded secondary[1,2]			Special[3]		
	Number on roll[4,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	% known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll[4,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	% known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll[4,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	% known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
Coventry	25,130	6,110	24.3	17,380	3,510	20.2	730	300	41.8

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[5] Includes pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

GCSE: Science

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to review the curriculum for science GCSEs. [30940]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 December 2010]:* The criteria and associated specifications for GCSE examinations need to reflect the associated national curriculum provisions in relevant subjects. The Government have made clear their intention to review the national curriculum in all subjects, including science. Further details will be announced shortly.

Higher Education: Education Maintenance Allowance

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of students eligible for the education maintenance allowance at each *(a)* sixth form college, *(b)* college and *(c)* other higher education institution; and if he will make a statement. [30889]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 December 2010]:* We do not make any estimate of the number or proportion of students who may be eligible, on the basis of household income, for the education maintenance allowance (EMA) at the level of individual schools or colleges. Nationally, we estimate that 679,000 young people may take-up EMA in the academic year 2010/11, and around 45% of 16 to 18-year-olds in full time further education in England currently receive EMA. Young people attending Higher Education are not eligible for EMA.

The EMA scheme will close at the end of the 2010/11 academic year and no new applications will be processed from 1 January 2011. It will be replaced, from September 2011, with an enhanced discretionary learner support fund which will be managed by schools, colleges and training providers. This will enable them to target support at those young people that they assess as having real need of it to stay in education after 16. We are working with schools, colleges, training organisations and their representatives to develop the details underpinning the new scheme.

Languages: Education

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in *(a)* Newcastle, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* the UK have participated in the British Council's Language Teaching Assistance Scheme for each of the last three years. [30375]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 December 2010]:* Figures supplied by the British Council show the numbers of students from the following three areas who took part in the Language Assistants programme in each of the last three academic years as:

(a) Newcastle[1]

	Number
2008/09	54
2009/10	66
2010/11	76

[1] Includes the University of Northumbria at Newcastle, University of Newcastle upon Tyne

(b) North East[1]

	Number
2008/09	133
2009/10	135
2010/11	155

[1] Includes the University of Northumbria at Newcastle, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, University of Sunderland, University of Teesside, Middlesbrough and Durham University

(c) UK

	Number
2008/09	2,099
2009/10	2,385
2010/11	2,510

Pupils: Demonstrations

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of children in *(a)* Brighton and Hove and *(b)* Hove constituency who were absent from school during the recent protest against tuition fees in that city. [30649]

Mr Gibb: Reasons for absence are collected within the school census, however only broad categories are used and therefore the Department will not know the number of pupils who were absent specifically due to the recent protest against tuition fees. Information on pupil absence is collected a term in arrears, therefore data for the autumn term 2010 will not be collected until the spring school census in 2011.

Vocational Education: Hexham

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what future provision he plans to make in respect of assistance with travel to vocational education in Hexham. [30043]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities have a statutory duty to make arrangements to ensure that young people in further education and training can attend their course.

Written Questions: Government Responses

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 590-1W, on children in care, what methodology his Department used to determine that to answer the question would incur disproportionate cost; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the calculations and accompanying background papers in respect of that answer. [27663]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 29 November 2010]*: The original PQ (20371) requested information on four separate time-series. Based on our experience of answering similar individual questions, it was estimated that it would take around 6.5 days to extract the latest data and quality assure the answer.

The threshold for determining if a PQ request exceeds disproportionate cost is based on the departmental standard of an individual member of staff incurring a cost of £800 to collate the response.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 590W, on children in care, what methodology his Department used to determine that certain parts of the question could only be answered at disproportionate cost; what calculations his Department used to make that determination; and what assumptions regarding the *(a)* number of hours of work and *(b)* cost per hour required to provide the information underlay those calculations. [25698]

Tim Loughton: The threshold for determining if a PQ request exceeds disproportionate cost is based on the departmental standard of an individual member of staff incurring a cost of £800 to collate the response.

The original PQ (020371) requested information on four separate time-series. Based on our experience of answering similar individual questions, it was estimated that it would take around 6.5 days to extract the latest data and quality assure the answer.

In order to provide some information within the cost threshold, links were provided to previously published information.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 19 January 2011

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Freight

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department plans to lift the temporary restrictions on the transportation of toner cartridges by air. [33401]

Mrs Villiers: There have been several changes to Government aviation security regulations in respect of ink and toner cartridges since the Yemen cargo security incident in late October 2010.

Current measures require that printing equipment with ink or toner cartridges fitted inside, and where the cartridge weighs more than 500g, are not to be carried in air cargo or mail into, from or via the UK unless they originate from a UK validated known consignor. These measures will be in place for six months from 10 December 2010, after which we expect to implement new longer term measures to be agreed with European colleagues.

All other restrictions on printer cartridges were lifted on 10 December 2010.

Bus Services: Disability Awareness Training

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals for mandatory disability awareness training for all bus drivers. [34639]

Norman Baker: Disability awareness training is an optional part of the Certificate of Professional Competence which professional bus drivers are legally required to hold.

It is expected that under the proposed EU regulation on bus and coach passenger rights operators would be required to ensure their personnel, including drivers, dealing directly with the travelling public have disability awareness training. Negotiation of that regulation should conclude in the next few months.

Parking: Disability

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to increase penalties for able-bodied drivers who park in designated disabled parking bays; and if he will make a statement. [31801]

Norman Baker: Local authorities have powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to designate by order a parking place reserved for a disabled badge holder. If an able-bodied driver parks in such a bay he is liable to receive a penalty charge notice or fixed penalty notice. If he is displaying a Blue Badge and the badge holder is not part of the trip he is also liable to prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000. Penalties for parking contraventions are kept under review.

Photography: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on photography since the beginning of May 2010. [30799]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 15 December 2010]*: The Department for Transport and its seven agencies have spent a total of £60,107 on photography since May 2010, the majority of which (£45,752) was commissioned by the Highways Agency before the current marketing freeze, and which included maintenance of a web-based photographic library now discontinued. Approximately 67% (£40,037) of the total amount was commissioned prior to May 2010.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Government Art Collection

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* discussions he held with and *(b)* submissions his Department made to HM Treasury as part of the comprehensive spending review process over the valuation of the Government Art Collection; and if he will make a statement. [33814]

Mr Vaizey: No discussions were held or submissions made.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what *(a)* correspondence, *(b)* telephone calls and *(c)* meetings he has had with the (i) Mayor of London and (ii) Greater London authority on the future use of the Olympic stadium since 1 October 2010; [33900]

(2) what *(a)* correspondence, *(b)* telephone calls and *(c)* meetings he has had with the Olympic Park Legacy Company since 1 October 2010 on the future use of the Olympic stadium; [33901]

(3) what *(a)* correspondence, *(b)* telephone calls and *(c)* meetings he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government since 1 October 2010 on the future of the Olympic stadium and its effect on other areas of London. [33902]

Hugh Robertson: As a founder member of the Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC), the Department has frequent contact with OPLC and the other founder members (the Mayor of London and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) on a range of issues, including the future of the Olympic stadium.

Public Libraries: Opening Hours

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of local authority libraries where *(a)* closure and *(b)* a reduction in opening hours is proposed. [34151]

Mr Vaizey: Local authorities are not obliged to consult the Secretary of State about plans for their library service. In addition to information provided directly to the Department by a small number of authorities we continue to monitor proposals being made about changes to library services across England through coverage in the media, information from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and incoming correspondence.

Swimming

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the outcome was of his Department's consideration of a dual model for teaching swimming as an *(a)* healthy life skill and *(b)* competitive sport. [30886]

Hugh Robertson *[holding answer 14 December 2010]*: While it is for the Department for Education to comment on schools-based teaching, broadly speaking swimming is taught as a life skill to begin with in schools.

DCMS funding, through Sport England and UK Sport, is then focused on encouraging people of all ages to participate in sport and to support the most talented to excel; this includes swimming.

Television: Licensing

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to ensure that members of the armed forces with televisions at a home address and a base address are only required to purchase one TV licence; and if he will make a statement. [33803]

Mr Vaizey: The interpretation and application of the legislation on TV licensing is a matter for the BBC and how legislation applies to military accommodation is shown on the TV Licensing website:

http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/check-if-you-need-one/for-your-home/armed-forces-personnel-AUD7/

The website also points out that personnel posted overseas may be entitled to a part-refund of the licence fee.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Global Marine Reserves

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the establishment of global marine reserves. [34090]

Richard Benyon: The Government recognise the crucial role that marine protected areas (MPAs) play in conserving the world's marine environment. That is why we are committed domestically and internationally to taking forward the identification and protection of MPAs. Domestically, I am committed to substantially completing an ecologically coherent network of MPAs by the end of 2012.

The UK was instrumental in the ground-breaking work which saw the first six MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction designated in the North Atlantic, which was agreed at the OSPAR ministerial meeting in September 2010. We will continue to play a key role through the relevant international organisations with respect to global marine environmental protection, especially the establishment of MPAs. This is essential if we are to meet the 2020 target agreed at the recent Convention for Biological Diversity Conference of Parties 10 in Nagoya, of

> "at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes".

Nappies: Waste Disposal

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment her Department has made of the contribution that reusable nappies can make to waste prevention. [34213]

Richard Benyon: Based on data from the Environment Agency's 2006 report "An updated lifecycle assessment study for disposable and reusable nappies", which provided data on the average weight of a disposable nappy, and population estimates for England from the Office for National Statistics, approximately 575,000 tonnes of children's disposable nappies were sent to landfill in England in 2009. This is equivalent to approximately 1% of the total amount of waste sent to landfill that year.

While the use of reusable nappies could help reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, this does not necessarily mean that switching to reusable nappies will be of net benefit to the environment. The aforementioned Environment Agency report considered a range of environmental impacts linked with the use of different types of nappy (e.g. waste generation, water and energy consumption). The report showed that the relative benefits of reusable nappies are largely determined by how they are laundered and dried. Therefore, it is not clear whether disposable or reusable nappies are better for the environment overall.

The Government believe that parents should decide which type of nappy is most suitable for their own circumstances.

Steart Project

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Environment Agency on the Steart Project in Bridgwater and West Somerset constituency since her appointment. [34514]

Richard Benyon: I discussed the Steart Project with the Environment Agency on 10 January, prior to the Adjournment debate that my hon. Friend secured on 12 January. There have been no other discussions between the Environment Agency and current DEFRA Ministers on the subject.

Tuna

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* retailers and *(b)* the Food and Drink Federation on the sale in the UK of tuna caught using purse seine nets. [34091]

Richard Benyon: I have had no discussions with retailers or the Food and Drink Federation on the sale in the UK of tuna caught using purse seine nets.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the practice of catching tuna using purse seine nets. [34157]

Richard Benyon: The use of purse seine nets is a legal fishing method and there are no plans, as far as I am aware, to ban this fishing method within the EU. However, in order to ensure that the use of such methods in fishing is sustainable some regional fisheries management organisations have ensured that, where scientific advice requires it, there are seasonal closures in tuna fisheries for this method of fishing. I support such measures to make fisheries more sustainable.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the European Commission on the use of purse seine nets in the catching of tuna. [34207]

Richard Benyon: I have had no discussions with the European Commission on the specific issue of the use of purse seine nets in the catching of tuna. However, the UK plays an active part in discussions in the EU and regional fisheries management organisations, such as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, on the management of tuna stocks and is at the forefront of calls for stocks to be sustainably and responsibly managed.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the amount of tuna sold by retailers in England caught using purse seine nets in each of the last five years. [34222]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold statistics on the method of capture used in the tuna sold by retailers in the UK. Therefore, no such estimate has been made by the Department.

Waste Disposal: Recycling

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to encourage *(a)* waste prevention and *(b)* recycling. [34215]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Daventry (Chris Heaton-Harris) on 11 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 246W.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Department of Chamber and Committee Services: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many people employed as Clerks in the Department of Chamber and Committee Services of the House of Commons are from an ethnic minority. [34382]

John Thurso: Following the post-Tebbit restructuring of the House Service, there is no longer a clear definition of "Clerk" in the Department of Chamber and Committee Services (DCCS). There are 100 people within the DCCS who are in the pool of staff liable to be circulated into posts traditionally held by Clerks. Of these, five are on secondment to the House from other organisations and are therefore not employed by the House.

Of the remaining 95 people, 86 have voluntarily supplied information on their ethnic origin. Fewer than five of them have declared themselves to be non-white.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to address the situation of failed asylum claimants who are neither legally settled nor under notice of removal. [33642]

Damian Green: All failed asylum seekers are put under notice of removal when they are informed that their application has been refused. If an applicant fails to leave voluntarily their removal from the UK may be enforced by the UK Border Agency.

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of the withdrawal of the policy document entitled "Guidance on R(S) Policydealing with Failed Asylum Claims Which May Have Lost the Benefit of an ELR Policy as a Result of Delay", and what estimate she has made of the number of cases which will be affected by the withdrawal of the policy guidance. [34532]

Damian Green: The Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) is nearing the end of its programme to review the backlog of unresolved asylum cases, and remains on track to complete the legacy programme by summer 2011. Individuals who previously fitted the criteria of the R(S) policy would have fallen within one of CRD's priorities, namely those who may qualify to be allowed to stay in the UK. It is expected that the vast majority of such cases will have already been concluded. However, an accurate estimate of the numbers potentially affected by the withdrawal of the policy was not obtained, as this would have involved the manual checking of all CRD remaining cases, which could have delayed their completion.

All representations made on the basis of the R(S) policy prior to its withdrawal on 20 December 2010 will still be considered against the R(S) policy. Any representations made on the basis of R(S) after the withdrawal of the policy will be considered on a case by case basis. The small number of individuals who would have qualified on the basis of R(S) but whose cases have not yet been concluded are still likely to qualify for leave under existing immigration rules and policy.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of colleges on the UK Border Agency's sponsors list are inspected each year by officials of the UK Border Agency. [33733]

Damian Green: Since the opening of the Tier 4 register each sponsor has been visited at least once by UK Border Agency officials. Information on the number of visits to individual educational establishments is not collated centrally and information on the precise number of visits per year could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

European Gendarmerie Force

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether personnel of the European Gendarmerie Force have been deployed in the UK. [34682]

James Brokenshire: There have been no European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) personnel deployed in the UK and the Government currently see no circumstances in which they would consent to an EGF operation in the UK.

The EGF is a multinational initiative of six countries (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands and Romania) aimed at improving crisis management capability in sensitive areas and supporting peacekeeping missions around the world. The UK does not participate in this initiative.

Human Trafficking: EU Action

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Prime Minister on the EU directive on human trafficking. [34473]

Damian Green: I have regular discussions with the Prime Minister and other Ministers on Home Office business. Formal cross-government consideration of the directive took place last June, when the decision was made not to opt into the directive at the outset, but to review our position on adoption by other member states.

National Identity Register

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what security standards are to be applied in the destruction of the National Identity Register; [34136]

(2) what arrangements she has made for the secure destruction of the National Identity Register; [34137]

(3) what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of destroying the National Identity Register. [34138]

Damian Green *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: The standards and process being applied for the destruction of the information held on the National Identity Register (NIR) are set out in paper "CWIC—NIR Destruction and Equipment Decommissioning" which was placed in the House of Lords Library on 1 November:

http://deposits.parliament.uk

Library reference DEP2010-1917.

Destruction will be carried out by a CESG accredited and approved supplier, securely and in accordance with established secure destruction policy, procedures and guidelines. These include compliance with the HMS IA Standard No. 5—Secure Sanitisation of Protectively Marked Sensitive Information. The destruction of the NIR data will involve the physical equipment holding those data being both degaussed and physically shredded. It is estimated that cancelling ID cards and the NIR will realise net savings of £86 million over the next four years. The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) will incur some one-off expenditure and asset write-offs during 2010-11, including the secure destruction of the NIR. The net costs in 2010-11 will be near to £5 million. We estimate up to £400,000 will be incurred to dismantle systems and securely destroy personal data.

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has discussed with the Secretary of State for Justice the eligibility of prisoners to vote in elections for police and crime commissioners. [23850]

Mrs May *[holding answer 12 November 2010]*: Prisoners will not be eligible to vote in police and crime commissioner elections. The Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform, my hon. Friend the Member for Forest of Dean (Mr Harper), announced in his written ministerial statement on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 150-151WS, that prisoners' right to vote will be restricted to parliamentary and European elections, and only then in specific circumstances.

Spouse Visas: Females

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to provide a permanent funded scheme to enable vulnerable women in the UK on spousal visas who are subject to the no recourse to public funds rule, to access refuge accommodation for a specified period of time, in order to enable them to make applications for leave to remain. [34675]

Damian Green: A Home Office pilot project for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds commenced in November 2009 and, on 16 July 2010, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) announced an extension to the project until the end of March 2011.

In the document "Call to End Violence against Women and Girls" on 25 November, the Home Secretary confirmed her intention to ensure that women in the UK on spouse visas who are victims of domestic violence should receive support while their case for indefinite leave is considered and that the Home Office will continue to fund support while an effective and sustainable permanent solution is established.

Work on a longer-term solution is under way and information from the pilot so far will help to inform these discussions.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: Compensation

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of claimants to the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease scheme in each *(a)* nation and *(b)* parliamentary constituency who have died before receiving compensation. [34395]

Charles Hendry: The number of claimants who died before receiving compensation under the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) scheme broken down by country is shown in the following table as at 16 January 2011.

The number of claimants who died before receiving compensation under the COPD scheme broken down by constituency will be made available in the Library of the House.

Claimants who died before receiving compensation as at 16 January 2011

Claimant country[1]	*Number*
England	12,027
Scotland	1,855
Wales	3,253
No valid postcode available/ overseas	760
Total	17,895

[1] Based on parliamentary constituencies as at 2008

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34590]

Gregory Barker: The information is as follows:

(a) DECC policy on the space provided per employee:

The DECC policy is to meet or exceed the minimum requirements for space per employee as stated in the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992.

(b) DECC policy on home working

The DECC policy is all staff can work flexibly, including home working on a voluntary basis, subject to the individual constraints imposed by any particular post.

(c) DECC policy on hot desking

The DECC policy is all staff hot desk using a ratio of seven desks per 10 staff. There are exceptions for staff with a fixed desk as a result of reasonable adjustments to meet disability requirements, and for some senior staff.

(d) How many employees it has on average per desk

DECC has on average 1.3 employees per desk.

(e) How much space on average there is per employee

DECC has 7.9 sq m on average per employee.

Energy: Housing

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in each income decile in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* the UK, *(e)* Glasgow and *(f)* Glasgow North East constituency will be eligible for the proposed warm homes discount; and what estimate he has made of the average annual level of support per household (i) in each income decile and (ii) overall. [34365]

Gregory Barker: The consultation on the structure of the warm home discount scheme, including eligibility, closed on the 14 January and a response will be published in due course.

In this initial proposal, the focus of the scheme would be on providing support to older, poorer pensioners through the core group, with support also available for other groups through the broader group and legacy spending. The consultation estimated that under this proposed structure, about 2 million households per year would be assisted.

In the consultation, Government have proposed eligibility criteria for the core group of poorer pensioners:

Scheme year	*Proposed eligibility criteria for consumers in the core group*
2011-12	In receipt of pension credit guarantee only (i.e. no savings credit)[1]
2012-13	In receipt of pension credit guarantee credit only (i.e. no savings credit). 80 and over and in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit and savings credit.
2013-14	In receipt of pension credit guarantee only (i.e. no savings credit). 75 and over and in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit and savings credit.
2014-15	In receipt of pension credit guarantee credit only (i.e. no savings credit). And all in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit and savings credit.

[1] The minimum qualifying age for pension credit is based on, and will be rising in line with, women's state pension age. Under the legislation as it presently stands, women's state pension age is gradually increasing from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020.

The latest published records from the Department for Work and Pensions, available via the DWP website at:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

indicate the following numbers of current claimants of pension credit guarantee only or pension credit guarantee and savings credit in:

(a) England: 1.8 million

(b) Scotland: 216,000

(c) Wales: 132,000

(d) Great Britain: 2.2 million

(e) Glasgow city council: 37,950

(f) Glasgow North East: 6,940.

As set out in the consultation, we estimate that the vast majority of pensioners eligible for the qualifying benefits for the warm home discount core group would be in the lowest three income deciles. All those benefiting under the core group would receive a rebate of £130 in years one and two, £135 in year three and £140 in year four.

Additional households will receive support through the broader and legacy groups of the warm home discount by the final year of the scheme. These households will be found by energy suppliers, subject to their eligibility being approved by Ofgem.

The Government are currently reviewing the responses to the consultation on the warm home discount and will publish a response shortly. This will set out the structure of the scheme, including Government's final eligibility and delivery proposals for the core group and the resulting revised estimates of the numbers of people expected to be eligible.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* England and *(b)* Leeds North West constituency have received support from the Community Energy Saving programme since 1 September 2009. [34524]

Gregory Barker: Figures for numbers of householders benefiting from the Community Energy Saving programme (CESP) will be available in May 2011 when Ofgem is required to provide an annual report to the Secretary of State.

These figures will include a breakdown at regional and city level. I will ensure the hon. Member receives a copy as soon as they are received.

Energy: Private Rented Housing

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely costs in the private rented sector arising from failure to meet the requirements of the Green Deal. [34103]

Gregory Barker: From late 2012, the Green Deal will offer a range of innovative finance packages allowing private landlords to install energy efficiency measures in their properties at no upfront cost.

We would expect the private rented sector to respond positively to this opportunity. However, if the sector does not improve on a voluntarily basis, we plan to use proposed powers in the Energy Bill to require landlords to honour reasonable requests for energy efficiency improvements from 2015.

Landlords would be required to install all the measures for which there is a financial support package, such as the Green Deal, available. They would therefore not incur costs for installation of the measures under these legislative powers. Non-compliant landlords could be fined up to £5,000, though we expect non-compliance rates to be low.

Natural Gas: Storage

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the lowest recorded quantity of gas in stored reserves was in each year since 2006; and how many days' supply each figure represents based on *(a)* average winter temperatures and *(b)* the average daily temperature in December 2010. [33958]

Charles Hendry: Information about the quantity of gas in stored reserves, on a daily basis, is published by National Grid plc. Data going back to 8 November 2008 are in the "Operational Data: Data Item Explorer" section of National Grid's website:

http://marketinformation.natgrid.co.uk/gas/DataItemExplorer.aspx

Data on storage stock levels going back to 2006 are in the "Storage Monitor" section of National Grid's website:

http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/Data/storage/

Minimum aggregate stock levels (2006 to present) are presented in the following table, with a breakdown by long, medium, and short-range storage (LRS, MRS, SRS)[1]:

[1] The sum of LRS, MRS, and SRS does not equate to the aggregate stock figure in this table, since the minimum stocks held in each did not occur on the same day.

Gas year	*Date occurred*	*Aggregate stocks mcm*	*LRS mcm*	*MRS mcm*	*SRS mcm*
2006-07	4 April 2007	2372	1859	333	111
2007-08	19 April 2008	1137	707	217	109
2008-09	20 February 2009	1075	727	270	49
2009-10	17 March 2010	448	266	123	43
2010-11[1]	8 January 2011	1942	1462	405	45

[1] Data up to and including 18 January 2011.

DECC does not undertake analysis of number of days' supply from storage based on average winter temperatures and average daily temperatures. The number of days of supply remaining from storage depends on a wide variety of factors. These include: the deliverability of each storage site; commercial incentives to withdraw gas, which are provided by the market; overall demand, which in turn is heavily influenced by weather conditions; and flows from other supply sources.

Radioactive Waste

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what proportion of the UK's high-level radioactive waste is held at *(a)* Sellafield and *(b)* other nuclear facilities; [33309]

(2) what plans his Department has to locate *(a)* historic and *(b)* future high-level radioactive wastes at (i) Sellafield and (ii) west Cumbria. [33437]

Charles Hendry: High-level radioactive waste (HLW) arises from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel and all the UK's current HLW is located at Sellafield where reprocessing takes place.

In the absence of any proposals for reprocessing from industry, the Government's view is that any new nuclear power stations that might be built in the UK should proceed on the basis that spent fuel will not be reprocessed and that plans for, and financing of, waste management should also proceed on this basis. As a result, the Government have not considered, and have no plans for, management of HLW from any new nuclear power stations.

In terms of final HLW disposal, the Government have invited communities to enter discussions about potential involvement in a geological disposal facility siting process. So far, three local authorities in west Cumbria have expressed an interest in the process and the invitation remains open for any other communities who might be interested in finding out more.

In terms of other nuclear materials, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) draft strategy, which was subject to extensive consultation, identified the possibility of co-locating some spent fuels and intermediate-level wastes at certain sites. The NDA's draft business plan, currently being consulted on, identifies two potential such projects: one for the potential movement of spent fuel from Dounreay for reprocessing at Sellafield and the second for the potential interim storage of spent fuel and related materials from a research reactor at Harwell. The amount of waste this could result in is considerably less than 1% of the current Sellafield inventory but it is important to stress that none of this is high-level waste and no decisions have been taken. Before any final decisions are taken the NDA will have to complete technical studies, develop a detailed business case and engage with local stakeholders.

Renewable Energy: Lowestoft

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the effect on the economy of Lowestoft of expenditure in the renewable energy sector. [34102]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not carry out analysis at town level as this would be a matter for the relevant local authority.

To meet our 2020 renewable energy target we will need to boost deployment across the UK. The required fivefold increase in the level of renewables in a decade will bring significant benefits, including creating outstanding opportunities for the UK economy. Analysis carried out in 2009 showed that this has the potential to create up to 500,000 jobs from the £100 billion of private sector investment.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions has he had with the Construction Industry Council on *(a)* enforcement of current building regulations and *(b)* proposals to relax building controls; and if he will make a statement. [34119]

Andrew Stunell: My officials are in regular contact with the Construction Industry Council. A response was received from it in reply to our exercise last summer asking for views on how the building regulations can be improved, added to, or slimmed down and suggestions as to how we can deliver better levels of compliance. It also participated in a workshop on the 2013 Review of the Building Regulations held by my officials on 15 September 2010.

Community Development

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition his Department uses of land of community value. [34051]

Robert Neill: The Localism Bill does not provide a definition of land of community value. This issue will be dealt with in secondary legislation, which will contain the detail of the Community Right to Buy scheme. We will be consulting on this shortly, and welcome views.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he has given to the application of private property rights to land of community value. [34052]

Robert Neill: In developing the Community Right to Buy we have considered carefully the balance between the rights of property owners and the public interest in retaining for community use those assets that are important to community life. The details of the scheme will be included in secondary legislation and will be the subject of a public consultation which will be issued shortly. Issues subject to the consultation and relevant to getting this balance right will include the length of the window of opportunity and the right of owners to appeal against a local authority's decision to list their asset.

Council Tax

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average change in council tax was *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Brighton and Hove council area in each year since 1997. [34048]

Robert Neill: Details of the average change in Band D area council tax (including parish precepts) both for England and for Brighton and Hove council in each year since 1997 are shown in the following table.

These data are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/

under "Related Downloads". Brighton and Hove unitary authority came into existence on 1 April 1997.

Band D area council tax (including parish precepts)

	England		Brighton and Hove	
	£	*Percentage increase*	£	*Percentage increase*
1997-98	688	6.5	599	n/a
1998-99	747	8.6	652	8.9
1999-2000	798	6.8	698	7.0
2000-01	847	6.1	781	11.9
2001-02	901	6.4	828	6.0
2002-03	976	8.2	923	11.4
2003-04	1,102	12.9	1,074	16.4
2004-05	1,167	5.9	1,162	8.2
2005-06	1,214	4.1	1,219	4.8
2006-07	1,268	4.5	1,278	4.9
2007-08	1,321	4.2	1,342	4.9
2008-09	1,373	3.9	1,396	4.1
2009-10	1,414	3.0	1,447	3.6
2010-11	1,439	1.8	1,483	2.5

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* names and *(b)* salaries are of senior civil service staff who have (i) moved post within and (ii) left his Department since May 2010. [34298]

Robert Neill: The numbers of senior civil service (SCS) staff who have moved post within, and left the Department from 1 May 2010 to 31 December 2010 are shown in the following table. Please note that names and salaries (other than the Permanent Secretary which is already in the public domain) have not been included as this constitutes personal information.

	Number of SCS staff
Leavers	[1]13
Movers	[2]14

[1] Leavers include the previous Permanent Secretary (Sir Peter Housden) who had a salary between £175,000 and £179,999.

[2] Two of these employees have moved twice within DCLG during this period.

Homelessness: Temporary Accommodation

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless households were in temporary accommodation in Stoke-on-Trent in each quarter since 2005. [34689]

Grant Shapps: The number of households in temporary accommodation, arranged by Stoke-on-Trent city council under homelessness legislation, at the end of each quarter since 2005 is given in the following table:

Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, Stoke-on-Trent 2005 Q1 to 2010 Q3

		Number
2005	Q1	18
	Q2	19
	Q3	18
	Q4	19
2006	Q1	22
	Q2	26
	Q3	34
	Q4	1
2007	Q1	7
	Q2	7
	Q3	8
	Q4	5
2008	Q1	8
	Q2	5
	Q3	6
	Q4	5
2009	Q1	2
	Q2	6
	Q3	5
	Q4	2
2010	Q1	5
	Q2	4
	Q3	14

Source:

Quarterly PIE returns

Stoke-on-Trent city council reported in 2006 Q4 that it had undertaken a comprehensive review of its homelessness and housing needs services and homelessness strategy in summer 2005 resulting in a reduction in the number of households in temporary accommodation the following year.

Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly PIE returns. Summary information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to ensure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available and this information is also collected.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to discuss the development of skills and technology for zero-carbon homes with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and *(b)* National Housing Federation. [33987]

Andrew Stunell: My Department continues to work closely with the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and other partners on the development of skills and technology for zero-carbon homes. Recent examples include the Government's response to the consultation on "Meeting the Low Carbon Skills Challenge" which was published in December 2010, and the report by the construction innovation and growth team on "Low Carbon Construction" which was published in November 2010, to which the National Housing Federation also contributed.

We will continue to work with all relevant partners in the development and delivery of the zero carbon homes policy. The Zero Carbon Hub, which my Department supports, is taking forward a number of work streams which will help develop the skills and technologies needed for zero-carbon homes. I would encourage organisations like the National Housing Federation to involve themselves in the work of the hub.

Housing: Construction

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to accelerate the construction of low-carbon buildings in North Swindon constituency; and if he will make a statement. [33978]

Grant Shapps: The Government are committed to achieving higher standards of sustainability in new housing and increasing the supply, but we will not impose a solution on a particular area about how new homes should be built. The Triangle development, in my hon. Friend's North Swindon constituency, is one example of a locally led eco-development, showing what is possible through good leadership.

I have recently reported on progress with our policy to enable all new homes to be zero carbon from 2016, and the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell) set out just before Christmas our plans for further work to deliver our commitment to increase the energy efficiency of new homes through Part L (conservation of fuel and power) of the building regulations.

These policies will contribute to accelerating the construction of low-carbon housing in North Swindon, as elsewhere in England.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of new homes which are required to meet demand in *(a)* the west midlands and *(b)* nationally. [33986]

Andrew Stunell: The latest household projections for England were published on 26 November 2010 and can be found on the DCLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/2033household1110

The household projections are based on the ONS population projections and provide the household numbers that would result if the assumptions based on previous demographic trends in the population and household formation rates were to be realised in practice. The projections therefore provide an indication of the possible demographic demand for new homes. However, it should be noted that future demographic trends might not be in line with past ones, and other factors—such as income growth—will also affect effective demand.

The control over new house building is in the hands of local authorities and the community. The Government are committed to increasing housing supply and seeing more of the homes that people want, in the places that people want them, to meet Britain's housing need. The New Homes Bonus, announced by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps) on 12 November 2010, will create a simple, powerful, transparent and permanent incentive to increase the supply of new homes and shift power back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils.

Housing: Empty Property

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic properties in Watford have been empty for more than a year. [34166]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: In October 2010, Watford borough council reported there were 622 long-term empty dwellings in their area.

Long-term empties are regarded as those dwellings

"which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished".

Independent Living Centres

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the future of centres for independent living. [33789]

Andrew Stunell: My Department is not responsible for the future of centres for independent living.

Local Government Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have published online their expenditure on items over £500 to date. [33746]

Robert Neill: Our latest assessment is that at least 195 local authorities are publishing their spending data online.

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to maintain a record of the compliance of local authorities with transparency requirements; and if he will make a statement. [34083]

Robert Neill: My Department is compiling an online list of local authorities that are publishing information on spend over £500 to assist local accountability.

Local Government: Pay

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority chief executives have had a reduction in the level of their salary since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [34062]

Robert Neill: Information on local authority chief executive salaries is not held centrally. Our transparency reforms will ensure greater openness and local accountability on senior pay in local government.

We understand that a number of local authority chief executives have taken a pay cut, for instance media reports are that:

Kevin Lavery (CEO of Cornwall) has taken a 5% pay cut from his £200,000 salary;

Joanna Killian (CEO of Essex CC and Brentwood BC) has taken a 5% pay cut from her £237,000 salary;

Phil Norrey (CEO of Devon CC) has taken a 5% pay cut from his £157,000 salary;

Ged Fitzgerald (CEO of Liverpool CC) has taken a 3% pay cut from £203,500 to £197,500.

Tom Riordan (CEO of Leeds CC) has taken a 5% pay cut to just over £176,000.

This list is not comprehensive in any way. We would encourage more chief executives to follow this best practice.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had on permitting local planning appeals to stop developments where they are considered inappropriate by the local community; and if he will make a statement. [34203]

Robert Neill: The Government's reforms to the planning system seek to avoid the need for appeals to the Planning Inspectorate by all parties. We are strengthening the ability of those with a legitimate interest to make their views heard and have them taken into account through neighbourhood planning and mandatory pre-application consultations with local interests for the largest schemes. We want to move to a more collaborative approach to planning. We are discussing the provisions of the Localism Bill with a wide range of interests. Our priority is to get our initial reforms in place.

Social Rented Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in *(a)* the west midlands and *(b)* nationally are on social housing waiting lists; and if he will make a statement. [33985]

Andrew Stunell: The number of households registered on social housing waiting lists in each local authority, each statistical region, and in England, as at 1 April each year from 1997 to 2010, is published on the DCLG website in Table 600. The link for this table is given as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1783262.xls

Waste Disposal: Expenditure

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each local authority spent on waste collection and management in the last year for which figures are available. [34214]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table that gives, by each local authority in England, the amount spent on waste collection and management for the financial year 2009-10.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Benefit

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent progress has been made on assessing the effects of the proposed changes to the administration of child benefit, with particular reference to the accrual of national insurance credits. [34351]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Bolton West (Julie Hilling) on 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 827W.

Cold Weather Payments

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the adequacy of the use of coastal weather stations to assess cold weather payments for applicants who live inland, where temperatures may be lower than those on the coast. [34359]

Steve Webb: The cold weather payment scheme involves linking groups of postcode areas to 91 Meteorological (Met) Office weather stations around the UK. The linkages are made by taking account of topography, the extent of built-up areas and the distance available from weather stations. Each postcode district is assigned to a station with the most similar climate in terms of mean winter temperature.

The cold weather payment scheme is reviewed annually after the end of each winter to assess the adequacy of all weather stations' linkages. Expert advice is sought from the Met Office and changes made where appropriate before the start of the next winter period. As part of the next review we will consider the use of costal weather stations for applicants who live inland.

Construction: Safety

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent assessment of levels of health and safety awareness among construction businesses; and if he will make a statement. [34259]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety Executive's construction division regularly assess the level of health and safety awareness among construction businesses via a variety of mechanisms including its inspection programme, research and reviewing industry surveys. These show an improved awareness of health and safety across the industry but this is much less pronounced among small and medium-sized businesses.

Disability Living Allowance: Birmingham Hall Green

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals in Birmingham, Hall Green constituency he expects to be affected by the removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance from those in residential care homes. [33637]

Maria Miller: Estimate of numbers of disability living allowance claimants in residential care homes are available on a Government office region-wide basis. We estimate approximately 80,000 people who claim DLA and live in residential care will be affected by this measure in Great Britain, of which approximately 7,000 are resident in the west midlands Government office region.

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of disability living allowance are resident in Birmingham, Hall Green constituency. [33638]

Maria Miller: The information is reproduced in the following table.

Disability living allowance recipients in Birmingham Hall Green parliamentary constituency—May 2010

	Number
Birmingham Hall Green	6,820

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Constituencies used for May 2010 are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
4. These figures are published in the House of Commons Library and at:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/dla/ccparlc/ccsex/a_carate_r_ccparlc_c_ccsex_may10.html

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

Health and Safety Laws Review

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what timetable he has set for implementation of the recommendations of Lord Young's Health and Safety Review. [32201]

Chris Grayling: The key implementation milestones for the recommendations of Lord Young's health and safety review are shown at annex M to his report "Common Sense, Common Safety", which was published on 15 October 2010. The milestones were agreed by Lord Young with the Department or body responsible for taking forward each recommendation.

Incapacity Benefit

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of people that claimed incapacity benefit in (i) Hastings, (ii) Hastings and Rye constituency, (iii) East Sussex and (iv) England in the latest period for which figures are available. [33697]

Maria Miller: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Number of working age incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants (IB/SDA), as a percentage of the working age population, in East Sussex, Hastings local authority, England, and Hastings and Rye parliamentary constituency—May 2010

	Caseload	*Percentage of the working age population*
England	1,693,872	5.3
East Sussex county	15,770	5.6
Hastings local authority	4,570	8.8
Hastings and Rye constituency	5,050	8.6

Notes:
1. Percentages are shown to one decimal place.
2. Percentages for England and East Sussex have been calculated using mid 2009 population estimates, percentages for Hastings and Rye parliamentary constituency have been calculated using mid 2007 experimental population estimates.
3. Population estimates used are for working age—males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59.
4. East Sussex county includes: Hastings, Eastbourne, Lewes, Rother and Wealden local authorities.
5. Figures do not include Employment Support Allowance (ESA) which was introduced in October 2008 for new claimants.
6. State pension age: The age at which women reach state pension age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. This table has been prepared using males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59 and will therefore not match published figures.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

Jobcentre Plus: Employment

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent work Jobcentre Plus has undertaken with the Department for Communities and Local Government to assess local employment levels; [33391]

(2) what research Jobcentre Plus has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of public sector expenditure reductions on employment levels in different parts of the UK. [33392]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus has a good track record of dealing with fluctuations in local employment levels, tailoring its services to meet demand. This has been achieved by engaging across all Government Departments including the Department for Communities and Local Government to assess local employment levels. This engagement will continue in the future.

Jobcentre Plus: Rural Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on access to jobcentres in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [33989]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about what recent representations he has received on access to jobcentres in rural areas. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In terms of previous representations, we have received the occasional letter from customers in rural locations but not in such numbers which would indicate that there is a specific problem.

I am acutely aware that customers in more rural locations face particular difficulties and we take care to consider these when delivering policies and processes. For example, where there is a need to see someone face-to-face, we will take the individual's circumstances into account. This may mean arranging the time of a work focused interview around the customers transport links, offering to undertake a work focused interview in the customer's home location or somewhere more mutually convenient and offer assistance with travel and child care costs where possible.

In addition to these services, where a journey by public transport would take the customer more than one hour (door to door) or result in an absence from home in excess of four hours, Jobcentre Plus would consider offering these customers the facility to make postal declarations rather than attend in person every fortnight.

Jobcentre Plus also deploys a number of Mobile Units to help deliver a range of advisory services to our rural communities. Over and above the use of these Mobile Units, Jobcentre Plus also has a presence in approximately 1500 outreach premises such as children's centres, community centres, libraries and youth centres. Services offered from these outreach locations range from open access to jobsearch activity through our external jobpoints to one-to-one work sessions for Jobcentre Plus priority customers. The extent of co-location can vary from a few hours each week to a full time presence. These decisions are taken by local managers in conjunction with partner organisations to meet local need.

New policies introduced by Jobcentre Plus are assessed to see whether they are likely to have any differential social, economic, environmental or geographical impacts. This ensures that customers in rural communities are not disproportionately disadvantaged by any new policies and procedures.

Poverty: Children

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of children living in *(a)* absolute and *(b)* relative poverty in (i) North West Durham constituency, (ii) the north-east and (iii) England. [32951]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government office region and analysis by parliamentary constituency is not possible. However, figures for north-east of England and England are set out in the table. The latest available Government office region data cover 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Number and percentage of children living in (a) absolute poverty Before Housing Costs (BHC) and (b) relative poverty (BHC) in the north-east of England and in England

2006-07 to 2008-09	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
North-east absolute poverty	0.1	14
North-east relative poverty	0.1	28
England absolute poverty	1.4	13
England relative poverty	2.4	22

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. Number of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
5. These statistics are based on incomes Before Housing Costs.
6. Each of the measures is defined as:

Absolute poverty: children living in households with less than 60% of 1998-99 median household income held constant in real terms.

Relative poverty: children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Poverty: Rural Areas

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the level of *(a)* family and *(b)* child poverty in rural communities in England in each of the next five years. [34199]

Maria Miller: The Government do not forecast how many families or children they expect to be in poverty each year because child poverty is dependent on a number of factors which are difficult to reliably predict.

HMT's published analysis shows that the measures that can be robustly assessed from the 2010 spending review and June Budget will not lead to an increase in child poverty over the next two years. This analysis is not carried out separately for rural communities.

The latest data available from the Households Below Average Incomes for 2008-09 show that in England, before housing costs, the proportion of children in relative poverty is 15% in rural areas compared to 23% in urban areas and the proportion of families in relative poverty is 16% in rural areas compared to 19% in urban areas.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). These use disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
4. Proportions of children and families in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
5. These statistics are based on incomes before housing costs.
6. Families are defined as a single adult or couple living as married and any dependent children, including same sex couples (civil partnerships and cohabitees) from January 2006. A household is made up of one or more families. Families can include individuals over state pension age.
7. The measure is defined as:

Relative poverty: children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income.

Social Security Benefits: Aberdeen

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any private partners have been engaged as part of the benefits reassessment trial programme in Aberdeen. [33506]

Chris Grayling: Atos Healthcare are involved in the IB reassessment trial as an existing private sector partner delivering health care services. Specifically they perform the work capability assessments (WCAs) for customers being reassessed.

Other private and voluntary organisations may also be involved in supporting customers back to work. This work focused provision under the Work Choice arrangements aims to provide a range of tailored specialist services to respond to the individual needs of disabled people and employers. Access to external support is also available via the local authority, for example the Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations (ACVO).

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people claiming *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance receive awards for an indefinite period for each condition. [33649]

Maria Miller: The number of people claiming disability living allowance and attendance allowance and who have been awarded benefit for an indefinite period is in the following table:

Benefit	*Caseload*	*Number of indefinite awards*	*Proportion of indefinite awards (percentage)*
Disability living allowance	3,157,300	2,239,500	70.9
Attendance allowance	1,614,200	1,556,700	96.4

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Caseload show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate. Figures are from 5% sample data. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Social Security Benefits: Eligibility

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the state is of infraction proceedings initiated against the UK by the European Commission in respect of the right to reside test. [33608]

Chris Grayling: The UK received a letter from the European Commission in June 2010 challenging the right to reside element of the habitual residence test for access to income related benefits.

We responded formally to the Commission's letter in July. In our view, the current rules are within the law and are right for the UK; and changing them now would not be in our interest. Our rules fully support the freedom of workers within the EU, while making sure that there are reasonable restrictions on access to social security for those who have never worked in the UK. This prevents unsustainable burdens from being placed on our social security system.

We are engaged in constructive discussions with the European Commission, and continue to argue our case and work towards a favourable outcome. We have also successfully pushed for a wider debate among member states on access to non-contributory benefits for people moving within the EU.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the cost to the Exchequer of long-term youth unemployment. [33396]

Chris Grayling: The Department has not specifically commissioned any research or undertaken evaluation specifically focusing on the cost to the Exchequer of long-term youth unemployment.

However, the Government recognise the need to help young people into work and the scarring effect of long-term unemployment. This is why from summer 2011 we are introducing a Work Programme, which young people will access and which will deliver personalised employment support tailored to an individual's needs. In addition we are making Jobcentre Plus more flexible to help young people to find the right support to make the transition into work, creating work experience opportunities, encouraging volunteering for all unemployed people and investing in training and apprenticeships.

Universal Credit

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether any recipients of carer's allowance will have a reduction in the level of their payments as a result of the introduction of the proposed universal credit; [34044]

(2) what his policy is on the inclusion of carer's allowance within his proposals for universal credit. [34045]

Maria Miller: The Government recognise that the UK's 6 million carers play an indispensable role in looking after family members who need support.

We are carefully considering whether changes to carer's allowance will be necessary to take account of the introduction of universal credit in order to provide clearer, more effective support for carers.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding has been allocated by his Department to voluntary sector organisations in pursuit of big society objectives since the comprehensive spending review announcement. [32963]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions has not allocated any funding specifically for big society objectives since the spending review announcement in October 2010. The Department is committed to close working with voluntary sector organisations and the Work programme, for example, will utilise best practice from voluntary and private sector organisations to help people into employment.

Work Programme

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what evidence his Department evaluated to determine maximum payments to Work programme providers for supporting different client groups. [33390]

Chris Grayling: The Department drew expertise and specialist knowledge from a wide range of sources when determining the maximum payments for customer groups under the Work programme, including consulting with financiers and providers, seeking specialist advice from independent experts, and examining evidence from previous employment programmes such as Pathways to Work and the Flexible New Deal.

We are confident that the maximum prices reached will offer a challenging, but workable, model for providers to deliver against, and offer appropriate incentives for providers to offer support to all customer groups, including the hardest to help.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what forecast of annual unemployment among individuals aged 18 to 24 years his Department used to inform the Work programme prospectus forecast of client caseloads for Work programme providers. [33397]

Chris Grayling: The Department produces projections of customers likely to reach Work programme referral points for business planning purposes, which are aligned to the overall independent claimant count forecasts published by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) as part of the autumn forecast.

These projections have been adjusted to take into account policy differences between the Work programme and legacy employment programmes, and to include transitions from legacy programmes.

Young Person's Guarantee

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library an analysis of the £320 million of estimated savings to the public purse arising from the cancellation of the Young Person's Guarantee. [33398]

Chris Grayling: The £320 million savings announced on 24 May 2010 comprised £290 million resulting from the closure of the future jobs fund to new bids.

At up to £6,500 per person, the future jobs fund is five times more expensive than some other elements of the Young Person's Guarantee. Moreover the future jobs fund creates temporary, short-term posts and the grants do not include any incentives to move people into permanent jobs.

A further £30 million was saved through the ending of the £1,000 recruitment subsidy to new claimants on 30 June 2010. The subsidy proved to be poor value for money at it had no tangible effect on reducing unemployment.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Brazil: HMS Clyde

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Brazilian Government on their decision not to allow HMS Clyde to dock in Rio de Janeiro. [34191]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed the issue with the Brazilian Foreign Minister.

The Government are disappointed by the Government of Brazil's decision to not grant diplomatic clearance for HMS Clyde on this occasion, but we respect Brazil's right to make such a decision.

The UK enjoys a close relationship with Brazil and we look forward to enhanced co-operation with President Rousseff's new Government.

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the most recent previous employment was of each senior member of staff who has been employed on a fixed-term contract in his Department since May 2010. [34690]

Alistair Burt: Under the Data Protection Principles in the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA), it is not possible to release details of the previous employment of members of staff of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff are employed on a fixed-term contract in his Department; and what the job title of each is. [34691]

Alistair Burt: According to our records, as of 18 January 2011 there are 37 staff currently employed on a fixed-term contract, including interns. All these staff were appointed in accordance with the rules set out by the Civil Service Commissioners. More detailed information about the employment details of individuals is not normally disclosed.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* total and *(b)* average annual salary was of staff employed on fixed-term contracts in his Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [34692]

Alistair Burt: According to our records as of 18 January 2011, the total gross basic salary of staff employed on fixed-term contracts is approximately £2,161,856, which averages £58,428.54 per member of staff.

Foreign Relations

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of the UK's relations with *(a)* Cuba, *(b)* North Korea, *(c)* Venezuela, *(d)* Russia and *(e)* Iran; and if he will make a statement. [34049]

Mr Lidington: The UK favours a policy of principled engagement with Cuba as the best means of achieving our objectives, especially on human rights. We have good diplomatic relations and good co-operation in a number of areas of common interest, including trade, counter-narcotics, climate change and child protection. We do however remain committed to holding the Cuban Government to account to their international commitments in governance and human rights. We have pushed for an end to restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and assembly in Cuba and the release of all political prisoners, and will continue to do so.

On North Korea, we have a policy of engagement through respective embassies in both countries. This engagement offers the potential for change, and enables us to raise difficult issues, which is important particularly during times of heightened tension. We are also able to carry out a programme of humanitarian projects and English language teacher training. Relations are measured to reflect concerns about North Korea's nuclear programme and its poor human rights record.

On Russia, since my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President Medvedev stressed their desire for a stronger, more positive relationship, there has been progress in developing commercial ties and some co-operation on foreign policy priorities. Our bilateral differences remain, and the UK will promote and protect its interests vigorously. For example, we remain deeply concerned about human rights and the rule of law in Russia, and we continue to raise this issue with the Russian Government, including through our bilateral human rights dialogue.

The UK enjoys cordial relations with Venezuela and we co-operate on areas of mutual interest including sustainable development and community policing. We follow developments in Venezuela closely. This includes the implications of new laws passed by the last Congress, particularly the Enabling Law, and the legislative programme of the new Congress.

As regards Iran, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the noble Lord Kilclooney on 11 January 2011 by my right hon. Friend Lord Howell, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA429.

Sierra Leone: Press Freedom

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the safety of foreign journalists in Sierra Leone; and if he will make a statement. [34086]

Mr Bellingham: The safety of British nationals is the Government's first concern. We have no evidence that foreign journalists' safety is at greater or lesser risk than other foreign nationals visiting Sierra Leone. We encourage all British nationals intending to travel to Sierra Leone to read our travel advice which includes advice on safety and security. We support and encourage freedom of the press everywhere.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the security situation around the boundary between northern and southern Sudan. [34555]

Mr Bellingham: Between 7 and 10 January 2011 there were reports of fighting in the Abyei region between the Misseriya and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army/Joint Integrated Police Units. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to President Kiir on 9 January and Vice President Taha on 13 January and urged them both to ensure restraint and calm between the parties.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Education

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) whether expenditure by his Department on overseas students and refugees will be classified as official development assistance *(a)* this year and *(b)* in subsequent years; [34687]

(2) whether university scholarships provided by his Department for students from developing countries will be classified as official development assistance *(a)* this year and *(b)* in subsequent years. [34686]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In 2011 the Department for International Development (DFID) will continue to provide support to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission to fund students from Commonwealth countries to come to study in the UK. This will be classified as official development assistance in line with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD's) definition. Funding for the programme in future years is still to be determined.

DFID does not provide any other support for overseas students. DFID does not provide direct support for refugees in the UK. Other UK Government spending on refugees will be classified as official development assistance in line with the OECD definition.

Developing Countries: Water

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's *(a)* multilateral and *(b)* bilateral aid programmes were spent on water and sanitation in the last year for which figures are available. [33997]

Mr Duncan: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) expenditure are published annually in "Statistics on International Development" (SID) which is available on the DFID website and in the Library of the House.

In 2009-10 3% (£106 million) of DFID's bilateral aid programme was spent on water and sanitation programmes. An estimated 4% (£88 million) of DFID's multilateral aid programme was spent by the relevant agencies on water and sanitation programmes in 2008-09. Final figures for 2009-10 are not available.

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has provided for water and sanitation in *(a)* the Democratic Republic of Congo, *(b)* Afghanistan, *(c)* South Sudan and *(d)* Darfur in each year since 2000. [33999]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral expenditure on water and sanitation in Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan between 2004-05 and 2009-10 is as follows. We are unable to provide information on expenditure prior to these dates or to break down expenditure in Sudan by region without incurring disproportionate cost.

£

	Afghanistan	*Democratic Republic of Congo*	*Sudan*
2004-05	n/a	n/a	3,250
2005-06	n/a	n/a	689,357
2006-07	1,000,000	5,000	1,028,568
2007-08	288,522	484,010	2,004,276
2008-09	3,797,409	2,864,620	2,535,303
2009-10	383,554	3,199,999	7,033,059

"n/a" = Data are not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Overseas Aid

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the use of the Triwall aerial delivery system in humanitarian aid operations. [34216]

Mr Duncan: Triwall is a commercial company that has developed a way of dropping humanitarian supplies in cardboard boxes from aircraft. The Department for International Development (DFID) considers airdrops of supplies to be a last resort for food distribution because they risk supplies being grabbed by the strongest people in the population, and can even worsen the humanitarian plight of more vulnerable people.

DFID does not make airborne drops in humanitarian aid operations itself. Where DFID delivers relief supplies it does so with partner agencies, who normally distribute food at ground level. This method is easier to control, ensuring that those who are most vulnerable and need the supplies most receive them.

In particular circumstances, however, such as in violent conflict where isolated populations cannot be reached by land, airdrops can be an important tool. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) plays a leading role in such operations and has delivered 1 million tonnes of food in this way to Sudan, Angola and Somalia over the last 20 years.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department expects to publish its multilateral aid review. [34684]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: As set out in the Department for International Development's (DFID's) Business Plan 2011-15, the findings of the multilateral aid review will be published by the end of February 2011.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department expects to publish its bilateral aid review. [34685]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: As set out in the Department for International Development's (DFID's) Business Plan 2011-15, the findings of the bilateral aid review will be published by the end of February 2011.

Sri Lanka: Floods

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing to Sri Lanka following the floods in that country in January 2011. [34688]

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what recent discussions he has had with his Sri Lankan counterpart on the provision of emergency food assistance to flood-affected people in the east of Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement; [34581]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the recent floods in the east of Sri Lanka on redevelopment in the area. [34582]

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the World Food Programme on the provision of emergency food assistance to flood-affected people in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [34363]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The British high commission in Colombo is in close contact with the Sri Lankan authorities, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations over the impact of recent flooding in Sri Lanka and the response to it. Current assessments are that as many as 1,063,000 people have been affected, with about 50 deaths. 3,000 houses have been destroyed and 175,000 damaged. Of longer-term concern is the likely damage that has taken place to the current rice harvest and the prospects for the next planting later this year.

We anticipate that an emergency appeal for assistance, co-ordinated by the United Nations, will be launched on Thursday 20 January. This appeal is expected to provide a comprehensive assessment of the damage. The case for a direct contribution to the relief effort by the Department for International Development (DFID) can then be considered following a full assessment of how UK aid may most effectively meet critical needs.

The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has announced a contribution of €2 million towards the relief effort, the UK-funded element of which is approximately £230,000 (13.7%). The World Food Programme is closely involved in the relief effort, and will be among the recipients of this contribution by ECHO.

Trace the Tax Campaign

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with *(a)* companies and *(b)* accounting boards on the Trace the Tax campaign. [34007]

Mr Duncan: Department for International Development (DFID) Ministers and officials often meet companies and other organisations and discuss a wide range of subjects.

A number of the issues to which the Trace the Tax campaign refers are currently being considered by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD's) Tax and Development Task Force. DFID and Her Majesty's Treasury officials participate in the task force alongside companies, standards bodies, civil society organisations and developing country tax authorities.

JUSTICE

Appeals: Social Security Benefits

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many social security cases were brought to the Tribunals Service in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency in the last 12 months; and how many such cases were not dealt with within the 14-week target time. [34381]

Mr Djanogly: The target in the 2010-11 Tribunals Service business plan is for the first-tier tribunal—social security and child support to issue a final decision for 75% of cases within 16 weeks of receipt of appeals.

The Tribunals Service does not have an administrative office in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire. Appeals submitted within the Hon. Member's constituency are heard at the Haverfordwest hearing venue. Within the last 12 months the Haverfordwest hearing venue cleared 598 appeals. Of this total, 356 (60%) were within target and 242 (40%) were disposed of outside the target time.

Performance below target has resulted from an unexpectedly high level of appeals, particularly against employment and support allowance decisions. In response, the Tribunals Service has significantly increased its capacity and, nationally, 47% more social security and child support appeals were cleared in September 2010 compared to September 2009. Further capacity increases are in hand.

Court: Closures

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what response he made to representations made by solicitors practising in Lowestoft as part of the consultation on the closure of Lowestoft county court; [34105]

(2) if he will assess the effect on vulnerable persons in the Lowestoft area of changes in the time taken to grant *(a)* occupation orders and *(b)* non-molestation orders as a result of the closure of Lowestoft county court. [34106]

Mr Djanogly: The consultation response papers and impact assessments for the HMCS area of Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk can be found on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultations-closed-with-response.htm

While Lowestoft county court is to close and the administrative work be transferred to Norwich county court, hearings will remain at the courthouse. Retaining the building as a hearing centre also enables a part-time counter service as well as information, drop box and copying facilities to remain available for local court users. No significant impact on the time taken to grant occupation or non-molestation orders is expected.

Drugs: Convictions

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of convictions for drug possession of controlled substances resulted in prison sentences in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 in (i) the UK, (ii) Sussex and (iii) Brighton and Hove. [34318]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody, for possession of, and possession with intent to supply, a controlled drug, in England and Wales, Sussex police force area, and Sussex (Central) Local Justice Area (in which Brighton and Hove magistrates court is located), for the years 2007 to 2009 can be viewed in the table as follows.

Information for Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Office respectively.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody, for possession of, and possession with intent to supply, a controlled drug, England and Wales, Sussex police force area, and Sussex (Central) Local Justice Area, 2007 to2009[1,2]

Area/year	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proportion of found guilty sentenced to immediate custody (Percentage)*
England and Wales			
2007	37,221	4,402	12
2008[3]	44,530	5,119	11
2009	47,655	4,987	10
Of which:			
Sussex Police Force Area			
2007	751	66	9
2008	917	103	11
2009	1,024	127	12
Of which:			
Sussex (Central) Local Justice Area			
2007	201	5	2
2008	244	12	5
2009	242	4	2

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates' court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Drugs: Crime

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate has been made of the cost to the criminal justice system of dealing with *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug-related crimes in each of the last three years. [34001]

Mr Blunt: The MoJ has not carried out a systematic analysis of the cost to the criminal justice system of dealing with alcohol and drug-related crimes in each of the last three years. Such an analysis would require considerable resources. However, two reports—Home Office Online Report 16/06 and Impact Assessment on the alcohol code published alongside the Police and Crime Bill—provide estimates of some aspects of the impact of drug and alcohol-related offending.

Legal Aid

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received legal aid in each year since 1997. [34066]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not record the number of people who receive legal aid. Instead it records the number of acts of assistance. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

The LSC's figures for the total number of acts of assistance for civil and criminal legal aid for each of the financial years 1997-98 to 2009-10 are shown in the following table.

	Acts of assistance (million)
1997-98	3.49
1998-99	3.43
1999-2000	3.14
2000-01	3.43
2001-02	2.82
2002-03	2.66
2003-04	2.63
2004-05	2.43
2005-06	2.61
2006-07	2.66
2007-08	2.50
2008-09	2.87
2009-10	2.96

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on his proposed changes to legal aid; and if he will make a statement. [34067]

Mr Djanogly: My Department has already received a number of representations on the Government's proposals for legal aid reform in advance of the closing date for the consultation on 14 February. My intention is to publish a response to the consultation in the spring, which will provide an analysis of all the representations made.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future of legal aid for immigration applications for indefinite leave to remain in the UK arising from domestic or other forms of gender-related violence. [34099]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are currently consulting on all their legal aid proposals, including the removal of all non-detention immigration cases from the scope of legal aid. This would include applications for indefinite leave to remain that arise from domestic violence.

Legal Aid: Criminal Defence Service

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent and how many acts of assistance were rendered on legal aid through the Criminal Defence Service in respect of *(a)* very high cost criminal, *(b)* complex fraud and *(c)* other cases in each of the last 10 years. [34183]

Mr Djanogly: Complex fraud cases are funded under the very high cost (criminal) cases scheme. Legal aid expenditure on complex fraud and on the high cost case scheme since its inception in 2001, together with other non VHCC expenditure under the Criminal Defence Service was as follows.

	VHCC (£ million)	*VHCC fraud (£ million)*	*Non-VHCC (expenditure £ million)*	*Total CDS (expenditure £ million)*
2000-01	n/a	n/a	n/a	872.4
2001-02	7.9	6.6	974.5	982.4
2002-03	14.5	12.6	1081.2	1,095.70
2003-04	34.1	25	1144.4	1,178.50
2004-05	97.5	55.9	1094.6	1,192.10
2005-06	104.2	56.9	1092.6	1,196.80
2006-07	106.7	57.1	1064.7	1,171.40
2007-08	124.8	66.8	1054.1	1,178.90
2008-09	116	56.9	1058.8	1,174.80
2009-10	95.6	54.1	1024.9	1,120.50

n/a = Not applicable

The cost of complex fraud cases commenced before the full introduction of the VHCC scheme is included under non-VHCC expenditure. It is not possible to disaggregate complex fraud from other expenditure in that category.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent and how many acts of assistance were rendered on legal aid through the housing duty solicitor scheme in each of the last 10 years. [34185]

Mr Djanogly: Expenditure and acts of assistance on legal aid through the housing duty solicitor scheme from 2005-06 to 2009-10 is shown in the following table.

	Acts of assistance	*Expenditure*
2005-06	12,031	1,141,000
2006-07	27,562	2,869,000
2007-08	30,472	3,006,000
2008-09	33,842	3,251,000
2009-10	31,831	3,093,000

Between 2001 and 2005 the Legal Services Commission funded 13 pilot housing duty schemes as part of their research into alternative methods of delivery of legal services. These pilots assisted approximately 5,000 people per year at a total cost of approximately £2.2 million for the four-year period. A yearly breakdown for this period could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent and how many acts of assistance were rendered on legal aid through the community legal service in respect of *(a)* family, *(b)* housing, *(c)* welfare benefit, *(d)* debt, *(e)* immigration, *(f)* mental health, *(g)* employment, *(h)* community care, *(i)* education, *(j)* action against the police, *(k)* clinical negligence, *(l)* consumer, *(m)* public law, *(n)* personal injury and *(o)* other cases in each of the last 10 years. [34184]

Mr Djanogly: Community legal service acts of assistance by category of law are shown in Table 1. Figures split by category are only available for the last six years. Expenditure in the same categories is shown in Table 2.

Table 1: Volumes

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Family	407,143	419,115	413,106	381,506	412,049	451,154
Mental Health	31,085	34,509	34,547	35,663	36,718	38,632
Immigration	96,095	93,032	92,826	86,646	97,268	101,633
Debt	58,686	102,954	121,689	111,834	133,378	147,196
Housing	95,050	135,170	172,993	169,455	186,241	184,944
Welfare Benefits	72,630	98,999	125,200	126,628	137,605	143,865
Employment	9,578	23,145	22,309	22,702	28,261	31,796
Community Care	4,048	4,904	5,186	5,549	8,449	9,605
Actions Against police	5,475	5,483	5,721	5,336	5,799	5,898
Consumer	4,458	4,413	4,336	3,812	3,577	3,250
Clinical Negligence	9,322	7,941	7,919	7,697	7,480	7,472
Education	3,177	7,668	12,298	9,284	7,362	5,541
Personal Injury	3,449	2,933	2,823	1,900	1,668	1,747
Public Law	2,609	2,958	2,955	3,302	3,897	3,959
Miscellaneous	11,146	12,017	11,058	7,962	7,765	5,592
Total	813,951	955,241	1,034,966	979,276	1,077,517	1,142,284

Table 2. Expenditure[1]

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	£ million 2009-10
Family	490.0	537.8	549.1	582.7	623.6	596.8
Mental Health	48.4	28.0	28.3	31.7	30.5	36.2
Immigration	171.3	101.8	81.6	87.0	87.7	88.8
Debt	8.3	24.6	23.9	21.1	26.9	33.1
Housing	46.8	48.8	51.5	52.4	59.1	59.9
Welfare Benefits	11.3	22.5	23.1	22.3	24.8	28.3
Employment	5.3	6.5	5.9	6.2	6.4	8.4
Community Care	3.6	3.4	3.7	4.1	5.4	5.8
Actions Against police	6.3	5.4	5.5	4.9	5.1	4.9
Consumer	5.8	2.5	0.5	0.2	2.9	2.4
Clinical Negligence	27.6	29.4	25.9	28.1	27.8	15.9
Education	5.2	4.5	4.6	4.4	3.4	3.0
Personal Injury	-1.1	-0.8	-5.6	-7.3	-4.4	-4.4
Public Law	6.6	5.2	5.7	6.1	9.0	6.8
Miscellaneous	10.6	11.4	5.0	7.3	8.8	54.5
Total	845.9	831.0	808.9	851.1	917.0	940.4

[1] Values are net expenditure which is the total amount paid on final bills together with payments on account (POAs) in ongoing cases, less recoupment of POAs together with income from contributions and recovery of costs and damages on behalf of assisted persons. As some payments will relate to cases completed in previous years some categories appear as negative spend.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the charges of indictment were of each defendant in very high cost criminal cases in 2010; and what his Department's expenditure on legal aid was in each such case. [34186]

Mr Djanogly: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost, as the Legal Services Commission would have to check the details of every individual case file.

The following table shows overall expenditure on very high cost (criminal) cases for the financial year 2009-10, split by case type:

	£ million
Fraud	54.1
Drug Trafficking	14.6
Terrorism	9.5
Murder/Violence	5.2
Other	12.2

Legal Aid: Hyndburn

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received legal aid in *(a)* Hyndburn constituency and *(b)* England and Wales in each of the last five years. [34009]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not record the number of people who receive legal aid, but instead records the number of acts of assistance. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

Neither does the LSC record the grant of legal aid by constituency, but the tables show the volumes of legal aid granted based on legal aid providers with postcodes falling within *(a)* the Hyndburn constituency and *(b)* England and Wales.

The figures do not include legal aid received via telephone advice, community legal advice centres, the housing possession court duty scheme, telephone triage, or family mediation. These figures are unavailable at a constituency level.

Hyndburn constituency—legal aid volumes

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Civil Representation certificates issued	432	325	284	292	290
Legal Help New Matter Starts in Civil and Immigration	954	1,078	1,034	1,129	1,104
Crime Lower claim volumes	2,066	2,142	1,845	1,901	1,834
Crime Higher case volumes	143	106	111	92	85
Total	3,595	3,651	3,274	3,414	3,313

England and Wales—legal aid volumes

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Civil Representation certificates issued	154,799	151,793	138,026	146,509	161,492
Legal Help New Matter Starts in Civil and Immigration	713,288	740,334	720,211	800,444	807,451
Crime Lower claim volumes	1,223,086	1,165,767	1,086,110	1,188,978	1,175,222
Crime Higher case volumes	136,363	140,142	145,016	156,271	158,665
Total	2,227,536	2,198,036	2,089,363	2,292,202	2,302,830

Open Prisons

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners at HM Prison Ford did not pass a risk assessment in respect of suitability for open prison conditions in the past six months. [32941]

Mr Blunt: All prisoners who are transferred to open conditions such as at HMP Ford are risk assessed before leaving the closed estate. It is common for open prisons to send prisoners back to closed conditions, for a variety of reasons, predominantly when their behaviour is such that open conditions are no longer appropriate. These transfers back to the closed estate will not always involve or require an adverse risk assessment. In the seven months from 1 June to 31 December 2010, 113 prisoners were returned to closed conditions from HMP Ford out of a total of 1,327 who have been at Ford since 1 June 2010.

Pleural Plaques: Compensation

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many claims for compensation relating to pleural plaques had been filed on the latest date for which figures are available. [34033]

Mr Djanogly: The extra-statutory scheme opened for applications on 2 August 2010, and as of Friday 14 January a total of 6,119 applications had been registered.

Prison Accommodation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress the Prison Service has made on implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Chief Inspector of Prisons into conditions at HM Prison Ford in May 2009. [32942]

Mr Blunt: As with all inspection reports, the prison put in place an action plan to implement the recommendations set out in the report. From a total of 82 recommendations, 78 were accepted in full or in part. A significant number of recommendations have been completed and others are ongoing. A further inspection was carried out between 29 November and 3 December 2010 which will produce a new set of recommendations, and work to implement as many of them as possible will begin once the inspection report is received.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many new prison places he expects to come on stream at *(a)* Belmarsh West and *(b)* HM Prison Featherstone. [34551]

Mr Blunt: The opening capacity of new prisons Belmarsh West, in the London borough of Greenwich, and Featherstone 2, in Staffordshire, will be 900 and 1,605 places respectively. Belmarsh West is due to become operational in spring 2012 and Featherstone 2 in two stages: 1,125 places in spring 2012 and the remaining 480 in summer 2012.

Prisoners

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the average cost to the public purse of a prisoner place for a prison population of *(a)* 100,000, *(b)* 90,000, *(c)* 80,000, *(d)* 70,000, *(e)* 60,000 and *(f)* 50,000. [34361]

Mr Blunt: The average resource cost per prison place in 2008-09 (latest period for which figures are available) was approximately £45,000.

The average cost per prison place at different populations has not been estimated as it would depend on a large number of variables. At the different populations given, the average cost per place might change slightly due to economies or diseconomies of scale, but the cost per place would depend more on the composition of the prison estate and of the prison population. Factors related to the prison estate are the category, size and number of prisons. Particular factors related to the population are age and gender.

The average cost for 2008-09 comprises the expenditure on public and private prisons (as recorded in the NOMS Agency annual report and accounts), increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). This involves some estimation. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (eg Health and Education). The prisoner escort service costs are included. Expenditure recharged to the Youth Justice Board in respect of young people is included.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what facilities there are at HM Prison Ford to support rehabilitation of prisoners; and whether any capital expenditure on such facilities is planned in the next 12 months. [33055]

Mr Blunt: There are no planned capital expenditure projects specifically to support the rehabilitation of offenders in the next 12 months. Ford has a resettlement department who are expanding the numbers of offenders who access unpaid and paid work activities in the community. Ford has many areas supporting rehabilitation including drug work, advice on housing, offending behaviour programmes (OBPs) delivered in conjunction with Sussex probation in the community, work with indeterminate sentence prisoners, education, full internal employment of offenders, for example in the garden and plant nursery, and work-based qualifications. A full programme of physical education is also offered with qualifications available but this is currently restricted due to the damage caused in the disturbance.

Prisons: Overcrowding

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many offenders at each prison are held in a cell, cubicle or room where the number of occupants exceeds its uncrowded capacity; and if he will make a statement; [34568]

(2) how many offenders at each prison were held in a cell, cubicle or room where the number of occupants exceeds its uncrowded capacity on 31 March in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [34569]

(3) how many offenders at each prison he expects to be held in a cell, cubicle or room where the number of occupants exceeds its uncrowded capacity in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [34570]

Mr Blunt: The average number of prisoners held in overcrowded accommodation in each prison in England and Wales during 2009-10 and the number of prisoners held in overcrowded accommodation in each prison in England and Wales on 31 March in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following tables.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Occupancy levels at individual prisons will vary according to the amount of capacity available overall, the number of prisoners and the way in which the prison population is managed.

We are currently reviewing future capacity requirements in light of the substantial difference that exists between the number of available places and the prison population and in light of the Government's Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders".

We will consider any implications for future crowding levels in taking decisions about this.

Current headroom means that the closure of HMPs Lancaster Castle, Ashwell and Morton Hall, announced on 13 January, is not expected to impact on overall prison crowding levels.

Average number of prisoners in England and Wales in overcrowded accommodation 2009-10

Prison establishment	*Average number of prisoners in overcrowded accommodation*
Acklington	0
Albany	0
Altcourse	1,010
Ashfield	0
Ashwell	30
Askham Grange	0
Aylesbury	0
Bedford	288
Belmarsh	368
Birmingham	642
Blantyre House	0
Blundeston	127
Brinsford	28
Bristol	162
Brixton	219
Bronzefield	0
Buckley Hall	64
Bullingdon	427
Bullwood Hall	14
Bure	0
Camp Hill	162
Canterbury	209
Cardiff	527
Castington	1
Channings Wood	42
Chelmsford	220
Coldingley	14
Cookham Wood	0
Dartmoor	45
Deerbolt	0
Doncaster	749
Dorchester	171
Dovegate	119
Dover	0
Downview	0
Drake Hall	0
Durham	702
East Sutton Park	0
Eastwood Park	45
Edmunds Hill	0
Elmley	480
Erlestoke	0
Everthorpe	152
Exeter	409
Featherstone	22
Feltham	0
Ford	0
Forest Bank	654
Foston Hall	0
Frankland	0
Full Sutton	0
Garth	37
Gartree	0
Glen Parva	413
Gloucester	150
Grendon	0
Guys Marsh	87
Haslar	0
Haverigg	21
Hewell	365
High Down	211
Highpoint	40
Hindley	0
Hollesley Bay	0
Holloway	0
Holme House	250
Hull	539
Huntercombe	0
Kennet	321
Kingston	0
Kirkham	0
Kirklevington	0
Lancaster	154
Lancaster Farms	87
Latchmere House	0
Leeds	633
Leicester	300
Lewes	122
Leyhill	0
Lincoln	466
Lindholme	66
Littlehey	122
Liverpool	356
Long Lartin	0
Low Newton	49
Lowdham Grange	79
Maidstone	57
Manchester	646

Average number of prisoners in England and Wales in overcrowded accommodation 2009-10

Prison establishment	*Average number of prisoners in overcrowded accommodation*
Moorland	75
Morton Hall	0
Mount	31
New Hall	50
North Sea Camp	7
Northallerton	156
Norwich	217
Nottingham	322
Onley	0
Parc	306
Parkhurst	45
Pentonville	534
Peterborough	227
Portland	0
Preston	655
Ranby	238
Reading	122
Risley	55
Rochester	0
Rye Hill	2
Send	0
Shepton Mallet	47
Shrewsbury	193
Stafford	0
Standford Hill	0
Stocken	70
Stoke Heath	119
Styal	20
Sudbury	0
Swaleside	23
Swansea	316
Swinfen Hall	32
Thorn Cross	0
Usk\Prescoed	238
Verne	64
Wakefield	0
Wandsworth	1,105
Warren Hill	0
Wayland	87
Wealstun	38
Wellingborough	2
Wellington	0
Wetherby	0
Whatton	65
Whitemoor	0
Winchester	413
Wolds	104
Woodhill	361
Wormwood Scrubs	124
Wymott	104
Total	20,235

Note:

The figures in the table above are an average of the number of prisoners in overcrowded accommodation on the last day of each month during 2009-10.

Number of prisoners in overcrowded accommodation in England and Wales at 31 March from 2001-10

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Acklington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Altcourse	802	805	992	981	722	807	1,008	967	991	1,031
Ashfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ashwell	0	0	10	2	12	8	12	10	32	30
Askham Grange	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aylesbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedford	156	180	267	255	321	306	323	312	232	292
Belmarsh	288	387	422	417	371	348	366	396	348	382
Birmingham	552	358	424	438	510	590	656	632	604	636
Blakenhurst[1]	334	368	448	452	448	476	496	—	—	—
Blantyre House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blundeston	0	0	136	132	115	117	126	128	124	132
Brinsford	76	86	52	46	48	50	52	24	26	12
Bristol	84	88	92	88	376	172	152	162	162	162
Brixton	282	230	236	234	234	264	266	234	226	254
Brockhill[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—
Bronzefield	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buckley Hall	50	0	68	76	48	50	66	44	88	54
Bullingdon[2]	192	288	492	201	400	406	406	400	360	424
Bullwood Hall	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Bure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Camp Hill	40	232	282	118	136	128	130	128	148	312
Canterbury	228	258	238	254	246	172	140	140	188	214
Cardiff	496	534	518	534	486	540	506	462	516	484
Castington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Channings Wood	14	30	48	46	40	54	56	32	32	32
Chelmsford	82	142	282	234	258	282	292	324	248	262

Number of prisoners in overcrowded accommodation in England and Wales at 31 March from 2001-10

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Coldingley	0	0	0	34	34	38	32	46	38	0
Cookham Wood	54	42	74	68	84	72	70	0	0	0
Dartmoor	0	0	54	48	42	46	32	46	48	44
Deerbolt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	644	610	1,120	1,064	520	602	740	803	762	744
Dorchester	140	204	196	168	182	166	176	168	166	182
Dovegate	-	0	60	59	30	70	61	120	120	72
Dover[4]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Downview	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drake Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	374	380	308	386	510	462	694	694	678	684
East Sutton Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastwood Park[3]	46	60	26	33	26	48	56	58	44	46
Edmunds Hill[5]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elmley	232	240	525	525	537	491	523	535	501	502
Erlestoke	0	12	30	22	22	22	22	0	0	0
Everthorpe	0	48	48	64	84	130	154	152	160	158
Exeter	310	329	380	105	406	178	356	362	410	430
Featherstone	0	0	22	26	20	18	26	26	18	16
Feltham	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Bank	0	0	0	162	249	475	526	662	656	700
Foston Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frankland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Full Sutton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Garth	0	12	28	32	32	24	32	28	26	36
Gartree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glen Parva	204	472	408	380	321	315	298	288	282	416
Gloucester	122	212	166	134	140	122	172	154	150	188
Grendon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guys Marsh	66	74	76	72	68	84	82	80	92	88
Haslar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hatfield[2]	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haverigg	0	6	16	14	12	16	8	12	20	0
Hewell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	480	350	400
Hewell Grange[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—
High Down	147	156	165	312	324	306	312	248	228	192
Highpoint[5]	0	48	46	48	40	42	36	32	42	46
Hindley	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hollesley Bay[6]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holloway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holme House	0	168	242	236	264	256	290	270	232	224
Hull	0	0	426	518	490	532	630	542	506	600
Huntercombe[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kennet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	312	334	322
Kingston[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kirkham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kirklevington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	0	0	168	156	172	162	130	140	156	152
Lancaster Farms	30	76	58	62	58	74	52	62	78	96
Latchmere House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leeds	940	922	934	928	910	820	748	730	654	680
Leicester	278	294	320	338	294	285	308	258	280	288
Lewes	28	28	160	148	138	164	154	148	124	0
Leyhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	330	358	282	318	286	306	380	540	482	438
Lindholme	0	0	0	0	66	42	104	108	100	64
Littlehey	30	62	72	72	82	74	88	194	126	122

•Number of prisoners in overcrowded accommodation in England and Wales at 31 March from 2001-10

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Liverpool	334	484	530	510	404	370	418	414	336	350
Long Lartin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Low Newton	68	70	92	[illegible]	52	38	42	62	52	40
Lowdham Grange	0	0	18	40	0	26	88	66	85	28
Maidstone	2	0	0	0	118	0	56	58	50	64
Manchester	244	736	722	712	670	650	660	580	598	660
Moorland	54	60	56	57	56	38	62	56	74	74
Morton Hall	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount	66	80	102	106	0	30	24	24	26	30
New Hall	60	86	48	48	22	34	36	48	34	46
North Sea Camp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Northallerton	94	138	168	158	88	176	192	174	170	166
Norwich	294	368	414	381	426	388	197	159	171	272
Nottingham	228	228	308	288	296	248	284	348	344	254
Onley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parc	0	0	0	0	-224	179	250	307	304	316
Parkhurst	0	0	0	36	36	46	58	80	80	74
Pentonville	364	386	424	444	462	508	644	796	502	524
Peterborough	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	132	216	258
Portland	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preston	480	462	610	604	556	556	672	672	576	710
Ranby	76	96	177	184	189	242	238	248	238	238
Reading	126	152	188	218	182	192	164	166	120	144
Risley	0	66	34	62	62	90	80	84	86	40
Rochester	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rye Hill	0	0	650	104	0	0	0	0	0	0
Send	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shepton Mallet	30	20	39	70	50	34	46	48	48	48
Shrewsbury	276	280	322	328	214	318	340	268	226	196
Stafford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Standford Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stocken	8	52	52	52	52	52	54	42	74	62
Stoke Heath	116	0	188	186	152	202	198	200	102	108
Styal	32	24	46	38	70	86	20	18	20	18
Sudbury	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swaleside	0	12	22	28	34	36	30	26	12	7
Swansea	94	278	292	240	223	244	283	374	342	322
Swinfen Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	32	48
Thorn Cross	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Usk/Prescoed	176	172	220	123	224	228	218	214	224	243
Verne	34	56	64	54	66	64	66	64	62	70
Wakefield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wandsworth	468	632	324	924	936	1,030	1,258	1,090	1,128	1,108
Warren Hill[6]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wayland	28	62	82	84	72	76	84	64	84	64
Wealstun	0	0	0	0	0	2	28	34	36	34
Weare	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	
Wellingborough	0	0	0	20	20	0	0	16	8	6
Werrington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wetherby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whatton	0	0	0	16	78	0	66	56	66	76
Whitemoor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winchester	280	262	402	404	418	402	340	344	405	402
Wolds	65	86	44	75	32	0	94	92	104	96
Woodhill	136	138	236	320	226	272	314	310	314	354
Wormwood Scrubs	0	0	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124

Number of prisoners in overcrowded accommodation in England and Wales at 31 March from 2001-10

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Wymott	0	0	32	34	34	84	90	90	104	104

'–' = not operational

[1] Blakenhurst, Brockhill and Hewell Grange merged to become Hewell in 2007-08.

[2] Hatfield merged with Moorland in 2003-04.

[3] The following prisons have been combined in this table: Bullingdon and Oxford; Eastwood Park and Pucklechurch; Huntercombe and Finnamore Woods; and Kingston and Portsmouth.

[4] Dover became an immigration removal centre in 2003-04.

[5] Edmunds Hill and Highpoint split in 2003-04.

[6] Hollesley Bay and Warren Hill split in 2003-04.

Prisons: Personnel

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison staff he expects to accept voluntary redundancy or early retirement in the next 12 months. [34258]

Mr Blunt: A targeted voluntary early departure scheme across NOMS closed to applications on 10 January 2011. We are currently assessing the applications received. Additionally we expect that we will need to offer voluntary exit terms to some prison staff as part of the recently announced closures of HMP Ashwell and HMP Lancaster Castle. The exact numbers will not be known for some weeks. Further organisational reviews are likely to identify additional requirements but we will not know the exact number until the reviews are concluded.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the level of overcrowding in the prison estate. [34550]

Mr Blunt: The average rate of overcrowding in the prison estate in England and Wales in 2009-10 was 24%.

Source:

National Offender Management Service Annual Report and Accounts 2009-10, Ministry of Justice;

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/noms-annual-report-accounts-2010.pdf

Prosecutions: Tattooing

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been of tattooists for the tattooing of children under the age of 16 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [34386]

Mr Blunt: Data for offences under the Tattooing of Minors Act 1969 cannot be separately identified on the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database as they form part of a miscellaneous group which cannot be separately analysed.

Tribunals

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what powers he has to monitor tribunal proceedings; what powers he has to remove members of tribunals; and if he will make a statement. [34437]

Mr Djanogly: Tribunal proceedings are overseen by independent members of the judiciary. The Secretary of State for Justice does not have powers to monitor tribunal proceedings. There are provisions in all jurisdictions which allow for decisions of a tribunal to be challenged by way of internal review, onward appeal or a judicial review.

The Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 provides the Lord Chancellor with the power to remove members of the upper tribunal or first-tier tribunal on the grounds of inability or misbehaviour. The Lord Chancellor's power to remove other tribunal judges (such as those in the employment tribunal) is set out in other legislation. The exercise of the Lord Chancellor's statutory power of removal usually requires the concurrence of Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, the Lord President or the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland as appropriate.

Tribunals: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many tribunals were held in Colchester under each chairman in the last 12 months; and how many appeals under each chairman were *(a)* upheld and *(b)* dismissed. [34436]

Mr Djanogly: The first-tier tribunal—social security and child support (SSCS) does not hold the information requested. The information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost by manually checking each individual case file.

However, the following table provides information on the number of SSCS cases heard in the Colchester venue during the period October 2009 to September 2010. This is the most recent period for which statistics have been published.

	Number
Cases cleared at hearing	1,149
Decision upheld	801
Decision in favour	337
Withdrawn at hearing	11

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Absence Without Leave

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel including those in training aged under 18 years *(a)* were recorded as absent without leave and *(b)* deserted in each year from 2001 to 2010. [33962]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Food

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel are on the daily ration roll at Fort Blockhouse, Gosport. [33811]

Mr Robathan: There are 86 permanent service personnel on the daily ration roll at Fort Blockhouse, Gosport. In addition, as at week ending 14 January 2011, there were also 152 personnel undertaking training on the daily ration roll. This number is subject to change on a weekly basis due to course intakes.

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on the missed meals and meals out allowance at the Ministry of Defence hospital unit, Portsmouth in the latest period for which figures are available. [33812]

Mr Robathan: The latest period for which figures are available on the expenditure of missed meals and meals out allowance at Ministry of Defence hospital unit, Portsmouth is April to December 2010. The amount spent was £2,543.92.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel who have served in Special Forces receive an armed forces pension. [34097]

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many service personnel who served as part of the Special Air Service are in receipt of both an armed forces pension and payment from a compensation scheme; [34304]

(2) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual pension payment was to service personnel who served as part of the Special Forces in each of the last 10 years; [34307]

(3) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual compensation payment was to service personnel who served as part of the Special Forces in each of the last 10 years. [34308]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 18 January 2011]*: This information is not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost and, in any event, it is the long-standing policy of the Ministry of Defence not to comment on matters concerning Special Forces.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual pension payment to service personnel who served in world war two was in 2009-10. [34181]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: The average, highest and lowest annual pension payments under the armed forces pension scheme (AFPS) to service personnel known to have served during world war two are not held in the format requested.

Personnel who have an injury or illness caused by, or aggravated by their service can also qualify for a war disablement pension (WDP) under the war pension scheme (WPS). The average, highest and lowest annual pension payments under the WPS awarded specifically to world war two veterans are not held in the format requested. Weekly amounts in payment as at 30 September 2010 are, however, available for all personnel in receipt of a WDP, irrespective of when they served, and these are set out in the following table:

	Weekly WPS pension (£)
Average	76.42
Highest	326.48
Lowest	32.21

Note:
Amounts quoted include any associated WPS allowances received.

Armed Forces: Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces *(a)* are being treated for post-traumatic stress disorder and *(b)* have been treated in each of the last five years. [34209]

Mr Robathan: The following table details the number of patients attending a Ministry of Defence Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) initially assessed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) during the period 1 January 2007 to 30 September 2010.

	PTSD cases
2007	180
2008	156
2009	172
1 January to 30 September 2010	191

These figures report only new attendances and since July 2009 new episodes of care, but not all those who were receiving treatment. Equivalent verified data prior to 2007 are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

This answer incorporates data from the Annual UK Armed Forces Mental Health Report which includes statistics on PTSD.

Armed Forces: Young People

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of armed forces personnel including those in training were aged under 18 years in each *(a)* corps and *(b)* regiment in 2009-10. [33961]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is provided in the following tables:

Under 18 UK regular naval service personnel by branch at 1 April 2010

Branch	*Under 18s*	*Percentage under 18*
Grand total	325	1.0
RN Engineer Fleet Air Arm	35	1.0
RN Engineer General Service	55	1.0
RN Engineer Sub Mariner	20	0.8
RN Logistics General Service	40	1.4
RN Logistics Sub Mariner	5	1.1
RN Medical General Service	[1]	[1]
RN Medical Sub Mariner	[2]	[2]
RN Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Services	[2]	[2]

Under 18 UK regular naval service personnel by branch at 1 April 2010

Branch	*Under 18s*	*Percentage under 18*
RN Royal Marines Band Service	[1]—	[1]—
RN Royal Marines General Service	70	1.0
RN Warfare Fleet Air Arm	10	0.7
RN Warfare General Service	80	1.3
RN Warfare Sub Mariner	5	0.6

Under 18 UK regular army by arm/service at 1 April 2010

Arm/service	*Under 18s*	*Percentage under 18*
Grand total	2,935	2.7
Household Cavalry/Royal Armoured Corps	220	3.4
Royal Regiment of Artillery	280	3.4
Corps of Royal Engineers	305	2.7
Royal Corps of Signals	255	3.0
Infantry	990	3.6
Army Air Corps	40	1.7
Royal Army Chaplain's Department	[2]—	[2]—
The Royal Logistics Corps	290	1.7
Royal Army Medical Corps	35	1.0
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	475	4.0
Adjutant General's Corps (Military Provost Service)	[2]—	[2]—
Adjutant General's Corps (Royal Military Police)	[1]—	[1]—
Adjutant General's Corps (Staff and Personnel Support)	40	1.1
Adjutant General's Corps (Army Legal Service)	[2]—	[2]—
Adjutant General's Corps (Educational and Training Service)	[2]—	[2]—
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	[2]—	[2]—
Small Arms School Corps	[2]—	[2]—
Royal Army Dental Corps	[2]—	[2]—
Intelligence Corps	[2]—	[2]—
Royal Army Physical Training Corps	[2]—	[2]—
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	[2]—	[2]—
Corps of Army Music	[1]—	[1]—
General Service Corps	[2]—	[2]—

RAF regular personnel (trained and untrained) under age 18 by trade group at 1 April 2010

Trade	*Under 18s*	*Percentage under 18*
Grand total	255	0.8
Non-commissioned aircrew	[1]—	[1]—
TG1: Aircraft Engineering	90	0.8
TG4: Information Communications Technology	25	0.7
TG5: General Engineering	25	1.3
TG6: Drivers	[2]—	[2]—
TG8: Security	35	0.9
TG9: Air Traffic Control	15	1.1
TG10: Physical Training Instruction	[2]—	[2]—
TG11: Intelligence Analysts	[2]—	[2]—
TG12: Aerospace Systems	5	0.8
TG13: Safety and Surface	5	1.0
TG14: Photography	[1]—	[1]—
TG15: Medical	[1]—	[1]—
TG16: Dental	[1]—	[1]—
TG17: Personnel	15	1.0
TG18: Supply and Movements	15	0.5
TG19: Catering	20	1.7
TG21: Music	[2]—	[2]—

[1] Denotes less than five or a percentage based on a value less than five.

[2] Denotes zero or rounded to zero.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to 10; numbers ending in '5' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not be the sum of their parts. Percentages are calculated from unrounded data

Defence: Sales

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what serviceable *(a)* aircraft, *(b)* vessels and *(c)* weapons systems his Department has sold since 1997; and how much it received from each such sale. [33749]

Mr Gerald Howarth: I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Departmental Art Works

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 278W, on departmental art works, what budgetary provision he has made for covering the insurance costs of damage or loss of his Department's collection of fine arts and antiquities; and what proportion of the settlement for his Department for each year of the comprehensive spending review period this comprises. [33813]

Mr Robathan: No budget has been allocated to insuring the Ministry of Defence (MOD) art collection against damage or loss. In common with other Defence fixed assets, the MOD art collection is not insured. The risk of damage or loss is accepted by the Government.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 8W, on departmental art works, what consideration was given to the value of his Department's art collection in his Department's submission to the Treasury as part of the comprehensive spending review process. [33815]

Mr Robathan: None. In line with the policy the Department for Culture, Media and Sport applies to the Government art collection, no estimate is maintained for the value of artwork and antiques in the Ministry of Defence art collection. There would be a high cost associated with valuing the collection that outweighs the value of holding the information.

HMS Ocean

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's contractual obligations are in respect of the refit of HMS Ocean; and if he will make a statement. [33747]

Peter Luff: The Prime Minister confirmed on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 810-11, that the refit for HMS Ocean will go ahead. In preparation for this work, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has placed contracts for some small preliminary studies to be conducted.

As part of the upkeep programme for all complex Royal Navy vessels, HMS Ocean's refit is subject to ongoing discussions involving members of the Surface Ship Support Alliance (the Ministry of Defence, Babcock Marine and BAE Systems Surface Ships). As no final decisions have yet been taken within the alliance, the MOD has not made any other contractual obligations for HMS Ocean's upkeep period, though we are committed to working closely with our industry partners to distribute upkeep work on a "best for enterprise basis".

Met Office

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the adequacy of the statistical and scientific evidence used by the Met Office in its predictions. [34310]

Mr Robathan: The adequacy of the statistical and scientific evidence used by the Met Office is regularly and independently assessed through the Met Office Scientific Advisory Committee and the Met Office Hadley Centre Science Review Group.

Ad hoc reviews are carried out from time to time. For example, the 2009 Sir John Lawton review of the Met Office Hadley Centre concluded that it is one of the leading group of modelling institutes world wide and Sir John Beddington's 2010 review of climate science advice to Government confirmed it represents a critical national capability, with a central role of meeting the Government's requirements for climate evidence and advice.

In addition, Met Office science regularly appears as peer-reviewed articles in journals. In 2009, a survey published by the *Times Higher Education* ranked the Met Office Hadley Centre as the top institution in geosciences in the world, ahead of both Harvard and Princeton universities, based on the number of citations each research centre received for its peer-reviewed papers between 1999 and 2009.

Met Office: Privatisation

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on privatisation of the Met Office; and if he will make a statement. [33976]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence regularly reviews its trading funds to ensure that they have the most appropriate structure and status that deliver value for money to the taxpayer and government, without eroding their ability to support their government primary policy objectives.

I have commissioned a review of the Met Office which is looking at a number of options, including the privatisation of the Met Office.

This will report on its findings in the spring.

Met Office: Standards

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanism he has put in place to evaluate the performance of the Met Office. [34309]

Mr Robathan: The Public Weather Service Customer Group, which is funded by Government bodies and led by an independent chairperson, regularly monitors the Met Office's performance in terms of its public weather service outputs and forecasts.

The Met Office Board also monitors, scrutinises and challenges the Met Office's performance. The board is led by an independent non-executive chairperson, supported by non-executive directors.

Additionally, I chair an annual Met Office Owner's Council which further reviews the Met Office's performance.

North Korea: Nuclear Weapons

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made an assessment of the range of ballistic missiles possessed by *(a)* North Korea and *(b)* Iran; and if he will make a statement. [34060]

Nick Harvey: We continually monitor the ballistic missile capabilities of non-NATO nations and are active participants in the Missile Technology Control Regime, which seeks to restrict the proliferation of missiles and related technology for those systems capable of carrying a 500 kilograms payload at least 300 kilometres.

Both Iran and North Korea already possess a significant ballistic missile capability that can reach other countries within their respective regions and both countries are also pursuing technologies relevant to the development of significantly longer range ballistic missiles, potentially capable of reaching all of Europe, including the UK.

USA: AWE Management

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 458W, on nuclear weapons, if he will publish the letter to the hon. Member for Newport West on visits to US establishments by AWE personnel in the last three years. [34160]

Peter Luff: Yes. A copy of my letter will be published in the *Official Report* and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

War Widows: Pensions

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many women are in receipt of a war widows pension from the armed forces pension Scheme as a result of the death of a spouse serving in Afghanistan; [33994]

(2) how many men are in receipt of a war widowers pension from the armed forces pension scheme; [34077]

(3) how many men are in receipt of a war widowers pension from the armed forces pension scheme as a result of the death of a spouse serving in Afghanistan. [34078]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: The armed forces pension scheme (AFPS) is the occupational pension scheme for the three services including the reserves. The war pension scheme (WPS) is a benefit programme that provides no-fault compensation to former service personnel and their dependants for injuries and death as a result of service before 6 April 2005.

Under the armed forces compensation scheme (AFCS) financial support is available in the form of a survivor's guaranteed income payment (SGIP) for the surviving dependants of service personnel who have died as a result of service on or after 6 April 2005. Surviving dependants include spouses (husband/wife/entitled partner) and children.

The number of women and men in receipt of a pension under AFPS, WPS or a SGIP under AFCS, due to the death of a spouse or partner in Afghanistan, is set out in the following table:

	Widows	*Widowers*
AFPS[1]	115	[2]—
WPS[3]	0	0
AFCS[3]	100	0

[1] Figures for AFPS are as at 14 January 2011.

[2] Fewer than 5.

[3] Figures for WPS and AFCS are as at 30 September 2010.

Note:

All figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what progress he has made on his Department's target of creating 50,000 additional apprenticeship places by April 2011; and if he will make a statement; [33680]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that its target of creating 50,000 additional apprenticeship places by April 2011 will be achieved; and if he will make a statement. [33681]

Mr Hayes: We have made a good start on delivering the additional 50,000 adult places this year and are working with the National Apprenticeship Service to encourage colleges and providers to prioritise the growth in apprenticeships. Final figures for the 2010-11 financial year will be published in a National Statistics First Release in January 2012.

We have set ambitious goals for expansion of the programme and remain confident that they will be achieved, not least through the National Apprenticeship Service's work to support employers, colleges and training organisations across the country to make these additional apprenticeship places available where there is local demand.

While the Government make funding available for apprenticeship training, the opportunities themselves must be offered by employers. Already 85,000 employers are involved in the programme but we want to make apprenticeships an even more attractive offer to them. We are therefore reducing bureaucracy making the system simpler for employers and, are considering how we might better support them through improved funding arrangements. The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) is also continuing to promote the benefits of apprenticeships to employers. For example, in November 2010, it joined forces with business leaders in a campaign to urge more employers to take on apprenticeships. National Apprenticeship Week in February will also see apprentices, employers, and providers showcase the benefits of apprenticeship programmes and the value apprentices bring to organisations.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the abolition of the Train to Gain programme does not reduce the number of apprenticeship places available; and if he will make a statement. [33682]

Mr Hayes: Apprenticeships are at the centre of the skills system. Surveys of learners and employers regularly show that apprenticeships are valued by employers and individual apprentices appreciate the fact that the apprenticeships given them an entry route into work and a ladder to progress in their chosen career.

In May we announced that £150 million would be redirected to apprenticeships during the 2010-11 financial year to provide an additional 50,000 starts. As secured as part of the spending review (SR) settlement, we will be able to carry forward these additional 50,000 places into future years and an extra 25,000 by 2014-25[1]. By the end of the current SR this Government will be providing sufficient funding to support 75,000 more adult apprenticeship places relative to the previous Government.

Since May 2010 we have repeatedly stated the focus of work-based learning was shifting to apprenticeships and have set ambitious goals for expansion of the apprenticeships programme. We remain confident that these goals will be achieved, not least through the National Apprenticeship Service's work to promote apprenticeships and to support employers, colleges and training organisations across the country to make these additional apprenticeship places available where there is local demand. We have chosen to abolish Train to Gain and invest in longer and more comprehensive apprenticeships programmes because of the higher economic return apprenticeships yield.

[1] *Source* Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth, published by BIS, 16 November 2010.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the adequacy of the level of training available for apprentices in the housing industry; and if he will make a statement. [34260]

Mr Hayes: Construction Skills and Summit Skills are the Sector Skills Councils with responsibility for setting occupational standards and ensuring that suitable apprenticeship frameworks are in place for the housing industry.

The Department will ask for an assessment of the adequacy and sufficiency of apprenticeship training in the industry and I will write to the hon. Member when I have received and considered the response.

The following table shows apprenticeship starts for the construction framework from 2002/03 to 2009/10 (provisional data). The number of people starting an apprenticeship in the construction industry has declined in recent years, which reflects overall employment levels in the sector.

Apprenticeship starts for construction framework, 2002/03 to 2009/10

Construction	*Apprenticeship starts*
2002/03	11,900
2003/04	15,000
2004/05	18,500
2005/06	15,500
2006/07	20,700
2007/08	20,400
2008/09	16,800
2009/10 (provisional)	13,400

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Provisional numbers for 2009/10 are not comparable with previous years. There can be significant variation between provisional and final estimates and typically these numbers can be expected to be revised upwards. While subsequent revisions to 2009/10 data may be different from previous years, in 2008/09 the final number of starts was up to approximately 2.5% higher.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Business: North East England

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department has provided to small businesses in *(a)* the north-east, *(b)* the Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last three years. [33592]

Mr Prisk: The Department of Business Innovation and Skills funds business support which is currently delivered via the regional development agencies through the Business Link regional advisory service. One NorthEast (ONE) the regional development agency (RDA) covering north-east England, does not generally record information on a constituency basis. It is therefore not possible to source the relevant information by constituency on the grounds of disproportionate costs.

However, Annex A gives figures for the number of start-up and established business service users (excluding pre-starts) assisted by ONE in each of the last three financial years. It is likely that some of these businesses will have accessed both commercially available and publicly funded support in the north-east, the Tees Valley, and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency.

Annex A

Business users	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
Start-ups trading < 12 months	3,232	3,513	3,734
Established	19,573	17,121	16,867

[1] Up to December 2010.

ICT: Departmental Responsibilities

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in respect of which digital economy and telecommunications matters the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries reports to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills as well as to the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport. [33620]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: The Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries no longer reports to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Job Creation: Renewable Energy

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of jobs in the low-carbon and environmental foods and services sector which will be created as a result of expenditure on renewable energy technology. [34510]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 18 January 2011]*: In 2008/09 renewable energy in the UK was estimated to employ 266,000, generating a turnover of £33,000 million, equating to approximately 30% of employment and turnover in the low-carbon and environmental goods and services sector. The definition of renewable energy used includes: biomass, geothermal, hydro, photovoltaic, renewable consulting, wave, tidal and wind. This sub-sector is forecasted to grow annually at around 5% to 2015/16.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to paragraph 2.33 of the Local Growth White Paper, what steps his Department plans to take to ensure the transfer of the regional development agency staff to *(a)* local enterprise partnerships and *(b)* other successor bodies. [34418]

Mr Prisk: It is not expected that staff will transfer from regional development agencies (RDA) to local enterprise partnerships as the LEPs are not necessarily expected to continue former RDA functions. The Department has issued guidance to the RDAs to be followed where functions will be transferring to successor bodies where either the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations or Cabinet Office Statement of Practice processes may apply.

Medicine: Education

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of graduates who completed a second degree in medicine received NHS sponsorship in each of the last five years. [33327]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 13 January 2011]*: Providing information on NHS sponsorship is the responsibility of the Department of Health and they have provided the following response:

> Information on the proportion of medical graduates who completed a second degree in medicine and received NHS support is not available centrally.

The table provides information on the number of English domiciled students and 'European Union fees only' students who received NHS support while studying on a graduate entry medical degree, in England, in each of the last five years.

Academic year	*Number of students*
2005/06	1,418
2006/07	1,809
2007/08	1,849
2008/09	1,843
2009/10	1,905

Source:
NHS Business Services Authority Student Bursaries Scheme database

Regional Development Agencies: Redundancies

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the sum identified for winding down regional development agencies over the comprehensive spending review period he estimates will be used to *(a)* pay staff redundancies and *(b)* cancel operating contracts. [34565]

Mr Prisk: The spending review settlement for RDAs provides £464 million over four years, covering various salaries, redundancies, transition/closure costs and pension liabilities. Of this, the preliminary estimate is that up to 22% may be required to cover redundancy costs. It is not, however, possible to estimate this figure with certainty because the number of staff who will be working on continuing functions (such as European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) etc.) has not been finalised and staff are also leaving on other bases such as through resignation. The cost of cancelling or varying operating contracts is not yet known and will be subject both to negotiation with the parties concerned and securing the best value outcome for the taxpayer.

Royal Mail: Privatisation

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the likely effect on the Livingston and Bathgate sorting offices of implementation of his proposal to privatise Royal Mail. [34695]

Mr Davey: The current position, under Government ownership, is that decisions relating to Royal Mail's operational requirements, for example how delivery offices and mail centres operate, are matters for the Royal Mail Board. This will remain the case once private sector investment and disciplines have been introduced into the company.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the likely effect on the Post Office network in Livingston constituency of implementation of his proposal to privatise Royal Mail. [34696]

Mr Davey: Operationally Royal Mail and Post Office Ltd are reliant on one another and will continue to be partners because of the overwhelming commercial imperative for the two businesses to work together.

The chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, has recently said:

> "There is already a very strong and enduring commercial relationship between the Post Office and Royal Mail. It is clearly in the interests of us all that this strong relationship is maintained in the future. We are committed to securing as long an agreement with the Post Office as we are legally able to."

Students: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of offering tuition fee loans to part-time students in each of the next four years; and what proportion of the face value of those loans this cost represents in each such year. [33949]

Mr Willetts: The costs of extending tuition fee loan access to part-time students will depend in large measure on the decisions higher education institutions take in setting their charges for tuition. These costs will be offset by the deficit reducing savings made through the phased withdrawal of direct teaching grant for part-time students.

Taking the extension fee loans to part-time students in conjunction with all the other changes being made to the student finance system, we estimate the resource account budget (RAB) charge will be around 30% overall. However this will be dependent on the level of fees that institutions decide to charge.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituency Size

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects his proposals for fewer and more equal-sized constituencies to be implemented. [33903]

Mr Harper: The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, currently being considered by another place, requires the Boundary Commissions to submit their reports before 1 October 2013. The Secretary of State or Lord President of the Council is required to lay before Parliament an Order in Council to bring the Commissions' recommendations into effect.

Diamond Jubilee 2012: Urban Areas

Ian Lucas: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many new British cities will be created by the Diamond Jubilee City Status competition. [34493]

Mr Harper: The Government's expectation is that only one new city will be created as a result of the Diamond Jubilee competition.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 77WS, and to the information that has been made available on the Diamond Jubilee Civic Honours Q&A page of the website of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/honours/7610.aspx

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what process will be followed to determine which local authority has been successful in its bid for city status following the deadline for applications of 27 May 2011. [33665]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 77WS, and to the information that has been made available on the Diamond Jubilee Civic Honours Q&A page of the website of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/honours/7610.aspx

Rupert Murdoch

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his office have had meetings in an official capacity with (i) Rupert Murdoch, (ii) James Murdoch, (iii) Rebekah Wade, (iv) individuals representing News International, (v) individuals representing News Corporation and (vi) individuals representing BSkyB since 4 November 2010. [34115]

The Deputy Prime Minister: A list of my official meetings with external organisations is published quarterly by the Cabinet Office. My officials have meetings in an official capacity with numerous organisations and individuals on a range of subjects: a list of these meetings is not held centrally.

TREASURY

National Insurance Contributions

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason employers are required to continue paying national insurance contributions for employees who have reached state pension age; and for what reason no contribution is required from the employee. [34100]

Justine Greening: A single rate of employer national insurance contributions for all employees is simple and avoids introducing distortions in the labour market. The absence of employee national insurance contributions for those over state pension age reflects that those above state pension age are not entitled to working age contributory benefits or to accrue basic state pension entitlement.

Banks: Bonuses

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 153-66, on bank bonuses, (1) what consultation he plans to undertake on banks making a greater contribution to local economies and local communities; [34230]

(2) what categories of potential recipients of the proposed greater contribution to local economies and communities from the banking industry he has identified; [34231]

(3) on what criteria he intends to distribute the proposed greater contribution to local economies and communities from the banking industry between regions; [34232]

(4) which bodies he expects to be charged with distributing funds raised from the proposed greater contribution to local economies and communities from the banking industry; [34233]

(5) what recent discussions he has held with *(a)* regional bodies, *(b)* ministerial colleagues and *(c)* Government agencies on banks making a greater contribution to local economy and communities; [34234]

(6) which bodies he expects to administer additional contributions from banks to local economies and communities; [34235]

(7) what meetings on what dates he has had with representatives of the banking industry on increasing the industry's contribution to local economies and communities; and which individuals from which banking organisations attended each such meeting. [34236]

Mr Hoban: As the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated to the House on 11 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 153-66, we are working with the banks to ensure that they make a greater contribution to local economies and communities. We will provide more detail to the House when the negotiations have been finalised.

As part of the Government's response to the "Financing a Private Sector Recovery" Green Paper, the banks, through the British Bankers' Association Business Finance Taskforce, have committed to a number of actions that will aid local economies and communities. This includes providing enhanced data on lending at a regional level and the establishment of a £1.5 billion equity fund which will help provide finance to the SMEs that form a vital part of many local communities and economies. Further information on the taskforce can be found on the BBA's website:

http://www.bba.org.uk/taskforce

Companies: Registration

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer under what circumstances HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) would not oppose the striking off of a company from the Register of Companies; and whether each notice of intention to strike a company from the Register of Companies is reviewed by HMRC. [33955]

Justine Greening: Every notice of intention to strike a company from the Register of Companies received from Companies House is reviewed and risk assessed.

HMRC objects to a notice of intention to strike off where there is a material risk of loss of tax, for example where there are outstanding debts or an ongoing inquiry into the company.

Financial Inclusion Fund

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to make an announcement on the future of the Financial Inclusion Fund. [34671]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Inclusion Fund will close at the end of March this year. The Government will work closely with industry and other stakeholders to ensure that tackling financial exclusion remains a high priority.

Financial Institutions

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the total cost to the public purse was of support and recapitalisation of financial institutions between September 2008 and April 2010; [34516]

(2) how much his Department expects to recoup of its outlay on supporting and recapitalising financial institutions between September 2008 and April 2010; and what the timescale is for the repayment. [34515]

Mr Hoban: Full breakdowns of financial support provided to UK banks are published by HM Treasury on a financial year basis. Details of the support provided for the years 2008-09 and 2009-2010 are set out in the Treasury's Resource Accounts for 2007-08 (HC 539) and 2008-09 (HC 611) and 2009-10 (HC261), respectively. For ease of reference I set out as follows total recapitalisations by year and institution.

£ billion

Institution	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
RBS	15.0	30.8	0.0	45.8
Lloyds	4.5	7.6	0.0	12.1
HBOS	8.5	0.0	0.0	8.5
Northern Rock plc	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.4
	27.9	39.8	0.0	67.7

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published an updated estimate of the net direct fiscal cost of all financial sector interventions (including schemes other than bank recapitalizations, such as the Credit Guarantee Scheme) on 29 November 2010. The OBR's assessment of the net effect of these interventions forecasts a £2 billion profit for the taxpayer.

However, the eventual profit or loss to the taxpayer will only be realised on the sale of our shares and collection of all fees.

UK Financial Investments (UKFI) was set up by the Government to manage their investments in financial institutions (shareholdings in RBS and LBG; ownership of Northern Rock plc, Northern Rock Asset Management and Bradford and Bingley) at arm's length and on a commercial basis. UKFI's remit is to devise and execute a strategy for disposing of the Government's investments in an orderly and active manner, within the context of an overarching objective of protecting and creating value for the taxpayer, paying due regard to financial stability and competition. UKFI will look at the full range of alternatives for divestment, and will make decisions based on market conditions, on an assessment of investor demand, and on value for money considerations at the time when considering a transaction.

Inflation

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the likely number of consecutive periods of higher than expected inflation necessitating a quarterly letter from the Governor of the Bank of England in 2011. [33964]

Justine Greening: The independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England is responsible for inflation forecasts. The remit for the MPC requires the Governor to write to the Chancellor if CPI inflation deviates from the 2% target by more than one percentage point. The remit requires a further letter after three months if inflation remains more than one percentage point above or below the target.

Members: Correspondence

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for York Central of 18 October 2010, reference 5/05681/10, on funding for environmental initiatives. [34238]

Justine Greening: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Multinational Companies: Accountancy

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the need for an international accounting standard for companies operating in the extractives industry to cover all listed multinational companies; and if he will make a statement. [33954]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

International accounting standards are the responsibility of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), which is independent of all Governments. The IASB is currently considering a standard for extractive industries.

Pensions: Teachers

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Scottish Executive, *(b)* Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and *(c)* the Educational Institute of Scotland on the suspension of the 2009 valuation of the Scottish teachers' superannuation scheme; [34607]

(2) what plans he has for the *(a)* date and *(b)* criteria for his Department's next valuation of the Scottish teachers' superannuation scheme. [34610]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 18 January 2011]*: I have had no discussions with the Scottish Executive, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the Educational Institute of Scotland regarding the suspension of the 2009 valuation of the Scottish teachers' superannuation scheme. At the 2010 spending review, the Government announced their intention to carry out a public consultation on the discount rate used in unfunded public service pension scheme valuations to set contribution rates. Public service pension scheme valuations were therefore suspended until the review of the discount rate is complete.

Public service pension scheme valuations will recommence following the conclusion of the review of the discount rate used to set unfunded public service pension contributions. The timing and details of the valuation will be a matter for the responsible Department or devolved Administration, in this case the Scottish Executive.

Revenue and Customs: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time employees of HM Revenue and Customs at each grade were employed in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [34188]

Justine Greening: The number of part-time and full-time employees of HM Revenue and Customs employed in Northern Ireland in the last three years is shown in the following table.

	All headcount					
	31 March 2008		*31 March 2009*		*31 March 2010*	
	FT	*PT*	*FT*	*PT*	*FT*	*PT*
Senior Civil Servant	2	—	1	—	1	—
Grade 6	10	—	12	—	10	4
Grade 7	37	5	37	10	34	12
Fast Stream	10	1	8	—	7	—
Senior Officer	80	4	76	12	76	12
Higher Officer	230	34	217	40	198	48
Officer	503	166	474	177	398	174
Assistant Officer	722	285	723	274	629	299
Admin. Assistant	204	77	131	70	121	66
Total	1,798	572	1,679	583	1,474	615

Taxation: Digital Arts Industries

Simon Kirby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had on taxation of digital arts industries; and if he will make a statement. [34056]

Justine Greening: The Government's aim is to create the most competitive corporate tax regime in the G20.

The June 2010 Budget announced a package of reforms to business taxation, reducing rates of corporation tax for all companies. Companies in all sectors will benefit from these changes, including those in the digital arts industries.

VAT: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he made of the likely effects on the economy in Northern Ireland of the recent increase in the rate of value added tax before that increase came into effect. [34187]

Justine Greening: The answer to this question falls within the responsibilities of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Letter from Robert Chote, dated 14 January 2011:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility I have been asked to reply to your recent question.

The OBR's November forecast incorporated the estimated impact of policy measures announced at or before the June Budget, including the increase in the standard rate of VAT from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent that took effect from 4 January 2011.

We have not assessed the impact of the change in VAT on the Northern Ireland economy. However, the OBR applied a range of fiscal multipliers to help inform its judgement on the impact of VAT on aggregate demand in the UK economy. These multipliers are set out in Table C8 of the interim OBR's June Budget document. A figure of 0.6, for example, means that a measure which has a direct effect of raising revenue by 1 per cent of GDP is estimated to reduce aggregate demand in the economy by 0.6 per cent in the short run.

The interim OBR's June 2010 Budget forecast and the OBR's November forecast assumed that the increase in the standard rate of VAT from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent would reduce the level of real GDP in 2011/12 by around 0.3 per cent.

CABINET OFFICE

Public Bodies

13. **Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent progress he has made on the implementation of his proposals for the reform of public bodies. [34293]

Mr Maude: Since setting out the proposals I have moved quickly to introduce the Public Bodies Bill which provides a clear and effective way to implement these much needed and extensive reforms. Work is under way in Departments on changes which do not require legislation.

14. **Guy Opperman:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what objectives he set for his Department's review of public bodies. [34294]

Mr Maude: The primary objective of these reforms is to increase accountability for the work of Government. The reforms will also reduce the number of public bodies, secure savings and cut out duplication of effort.

Housing: South Lanarkshire

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the median household income was of a family in *(a)* the social rented sector, *(b)* the private rented sector and *(c)* owner-occupied accommodation in (i) South Lanarkshire and (ii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency (A) before and (B) after housing costs in the latest period for which figures are available. [29372]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

We use Households Below Average Income data to provide estimates of median incomes. However, the sample size of this survey is not sufficient to provide estimates for low-level geographies such as those requested.

The following table shows the median equivalised disposable household income by tenure for Scotland, before and after housing costs.

Median equivalised disposable household income, for families, by tenure for Scotland, three year average 2006-07 to 2008-09, before and after housing costs

	Median equivalised disposable household income for families	
Tenure type	*BHC*	*AHC*
Owners	467	424
Social renters	291	235
Private renters	346	253

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). These use disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for HBAI figures is single financial years. For countries and regions within the UK, three survey years have been combined as single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. Incomes are presented in 2008-09 prices and have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling.
5. Families are defined as a single adult or couple living as married and any dependent children, including same sex couples (civil partnerships and cohabitees) from January 2006. A household is made up of one of more families and is defined as a single person or group of people living at the same address as their only or main residence, who either share one meal a day together or share the living accommodation (i.e. a living room). In line with the wording of the question, analysis has been carried out at the family level.
Source:
Households Below Average Income (HBAI) 2006-07 to 2008-09

Manufacturing Industries: West Midlands

Chris White: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were employed in the manufacturing sector in *(a)* Warwickshire and *(b)* the west midlands on the latest date for which figures are available. [33967]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were employed in the manufacturing sector in (a) Warwickshire and (b) the West Midlands on the latest date for which figures are available. (33967)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The number of people employed in the manufacturing sector for the 12 month period ending in June 2010 in Warwickshire was 32,000 and in the West Midlands was 324,000.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Social Enterprises

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information his Department holds on the number of non-profit organisations operating in each region of the UK. [35079]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the number of non-profit organisations operating in each region of the UK. [35079]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprises are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at www.statistics.gov.uk. The table below contains the latest statistics available, which show the number of non-profit making enterprises by Government Office Region.

Count of non-profit making enterprises by Government Office Region

GOR	*Count of enterprises*
North-east	2,825
North-west	8,380
Yorkshire and The Humber	6,270
East midlands	5,870
West midlands	6,070
East	6,820
London	11,900
South-east	10,765
South-west	7,765
Wales	3,860
Scotland	7,760
Northern Ireland	3,515
Total	81,800

HEALTH

Abortion: Young People

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on the provision of pregnancy terminations for teenage women in the last year for which figures are available. [34005]

Anne Milton: There were 37,957 abortions carried out on girls aged under 20 resident in England in 2009, the latest year for which data are available. Abortions performed by national health service hospitals are reimbursed through the national tariff. The 2010-11 tariff prices for abortions are shown in the following table. The guidance associated with the application of the tariff has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_112284

Table 1: 2010-11 tariffs for abortions

Healthcare resource group	*Combined day case and elective tariff (£)*	*Non-elective tariff (£)*
Vacuum aspiration with rigid cannula for 9 weeks gestation or more	564	959
Vacuum aspiration with rigid cannula for less than 9 weeks gestation	564	742
Vacuum aspiration with flexible cannula	582	924
Dilation and evacuation 20 weeks or more	662	1,543
Dilation and evacuation less than 20 weeks	662	1,057
Medical termination of pregnancy	473	679

Blood: Cancer

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has he made of the effects of race on the likelihood of NHS patients surviving blood cancers. [34447]

Paul Burstow: The Department has made no assessment of the effect of race on survival outcomes in patients with haematological cancers. The National Cancer

Intelligence Network has published a report on cancer incidence and survival by ethnic group, but survival data have only been presented for the four most common cancers, which do not include haematological cancer.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to improve health outcomes for people diagnosed with blood cancers; [34448]

(2) what steps he is taking to improve health outcomes for people diagnosed with leukaemia; [34449]

(3) what steps he is taking to improve health outcomes for children diagnosed with cancer. [34450]

Paul Burstow: To improve outcomes for patients with cancer, including those with haematological cancers and children with cancer, on 12 January 2011 we published "Improving Outcomes—A Strategy for Cancer", which sets out a range of measures to improve cancer survival rates in England. It shows how we intend to tackle preventable cancer incidence, improve the quality and efficiency of cancer services and deliver outcomes that are comparable with the best in Europe. Through these approaches, the aim is to save an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15.

The strategy makes clear that the improving outcomes in cancer guidance, published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, will continue to be a feature of all commissioned cancer services. "Improving Outcomes in Haematological Cancers", which makes recommendations on the treatment, management and care of patients with haematological cancer, will ensure that the planning and commissioning of cancer services are organised to deliver the best patient outcomes.

Specifically regarding improvements in the health outcomes for children diagnosed with cancer, "Improving Outcomes in Children and Young People with Cancer" will continue to support commissioners and clinicians to make the right decisions about the care and treatment of children with cancer that deliver the best outcomes.

The strategy also sets out how children with cancer will benefit from improved access to proton beam therapy (PBT). We are investing around £50 million more over the spending review period so that all high priority patients with a need for PBT get access to this innovative treatment. Evidence supports the use of PBT in increasing numbers of children with cancer, for example those with brain tumours, to deliver improved outcomes. We anticipate that this will benefit 400 patients per year by 2014-15, the majority of whom will be children. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Surgery

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts used Cyberknife technology in the latest period for which figures are available. [34320]

Paul Burstow: Cyberknife is the manufacturer's name for a machine that delivers stereotactic body radiotherapy (SRBT). Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data available to the Department identify the treatments that the national health service provides but do not record the brand of equipment used.

In the vast majority of cases, SRBT cannot be identified from other forms of radiotherapy treatment using HES data.

Cord Blood

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many umbilical cords were disposed of as waste without the collection of blood stem cells in each of the past three years. [34451]

Anne Milton: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

Diabetes: Screening

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve detection rates for diabetes. [34047]

Paul Burstow: Awareness of diabetes is increasing and general practitioners (GPs) are playing a major role in identifying people either at risk or who already have diabetes, ensuring that they receive appropriate treatment at the earliest opportunity. Diabetes is in the quality and outcomes framework (QOF), part of the GP contract. Since diabetes management was included in QOF the number of people diagnosed with diabetes has increased to more than 2.3 million. In order to qualify for these incentives, GPs are required to record all patients with diabetes aged 17 and over on a practice register and undertake a series of tests annually to help assess and manage the risk of complications from diabetes.

The NHS Health Check, a national risk assessment and management programme, will assess everyone between 40 and 74 for their risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. It will help individuals manage their risk of these diseases by appropriate follow-up and so help them stay well for longer and save lives. Those diagnosed with previously undetected disease will receive earlier management, improving their health outcomes for the future. Identification of those at high risk of having or developing diabetes is included within the programme.

The NHS Outcomes Framework for 2011-12 includes a domain, which focuses on enhancing the quality of life for people with long-term conditions, such as diabetes. A NICE Quality Standard on diabetes is being developed to support those providing national health service care to deliver the outcomes set out in the NHS outcomes framework.

The Public Health White Paper proposes a public health outcomes framework which is currently out for consultation. This includes a domain on prevention of ill-health and this is where measures relating to the prevention and detection of diabetes would best fit. In order for this to be achieved the NHS and public health systems will be required to work more closely together.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Leicester who are using blood glucose testing strips to monitor their diabetes condition. [34387]

Paul Burstow: Information on the number of people using blood glucose testing strips is not collected centrally.

The following table shows the number of prescription items for blood glucose testing strips, dispensed in the community in England and in the primary care trust that best matches the geographical area of the Leicester East constituency, for the latest available 12 month period.

Blood glucose testing strip prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community—November 2009 to October 2010

Geographic area	*Items dispensed*
England	5,944,895
Leicester City Primary Care Trust	58,165

Note:
Blood glucose testing strips are defined as those products listed in British National Formulary Chapter 6.1.6 "Diagnostic and monitoring devices for diabetes mellitus" (excluding Urine Testing Reagents, Ketone Blood Testing Reagents and other screening and monitoring agent preparations).
Source:
Prescription cost analysis (PCA) system

Drugs: Mental Health Services

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in each NHS mental health hospital are recorded as using *(a)* cannabis, *(b)* methadone and *(c)* other controlled substances; [34693]

Paul Burstow: The information is not available in the format requested. However, a table which shows information on admissions to hospital where the primary diagnosis is one of mental and behavioural disorder due to psychoactive substance use has been placed in the Library.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of drug treatment patients who have been in treatment for three years or more are resident in each English region; and how many such patients are being prescribed substitute drugs. [34694]

Anne Milton: Proportion of adults in drug treatment being prescribed substitute drugs for more than three years in 2009-10.

Region	*Numbers in drug treatment for more than three years*	*Percentage of national*	*Numbers receiving substitute prescribing for more than three years*
East midlands	4,547	8	3,904
East of England	3,394	6	2,840
London	6,280	11	4,723
North-east	4,588	8	3,930
North-west	12,663	22	11,400
South-east	5,515	10	4,852
South-west	4,595	8	3,623
West midlands	6,398	11	4,907
Yorkshire and Humberside	9,122	16	76,88
National	57,102	100	47,867

Source:
National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS)

The goal of all treatment is for drug users to achieve abstinence from their drug (or drugs) of dependency. However, there is no single form of drug treatment that is effective for all people with opioid dependence and access to a wide range of treatment options is required to respond to the varying needs of problem drug users. The total number of adults in contact with treatment services in 2009-10 was 207,000.

General Practitioners

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his announcement of 52 GP Commissioning Pathfinders, what the *(a)* name, *(b)* management board members, *(c)* planned operational date, (d) NHS bodies involved in planning, management or operations, *(e)* independent or private sector organisations involved in planning, management or operations, *(f)* NHS bodies expected to be involved in future planning, management or operations, *(g)* independent or private sector organisations expected to be involved in future planning, management or operations, *(h)* organisational code and name of each (i) GP practice and (ii) primary care organisation which are active members and (i) number and proportion of (A) GP practices and (B) primary care organisations within the area which are not currently active members are for each GP Commissioning Pathfinder; whether each Pathfinder has appointed a (1) qualified or accredited senior finance manager, (2) organisational development expert, (3) individual with expertise in corporate affairs or governance and (4) commissioning expert; from which organisations such individuals were recruited; and if he will publish a copy of this information in machine-readable form. [34699]

Mr Simon Burns: The 52 pathfinders announced in December 2010 are already operational and assuming increased commissioning responsibilities from their primary care trusts (PCTs). A further 89 groups were announced on 17 January 2011. Both sets of names are in the following table.

The 'Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011/12' set out that clusters of PCTs will provide support to emerging consortiums through a qualified or accredited senior finance manager, an organisational development expert/facilitator, an individual with expertise of appropriate governance arrangements/ corporate affairs and a commissioning expert.

However, the Department is not collecting information on details of members and operational arrangements of pathfinders. The information may be best obtained through strategic health authorities, who are responsible for managing the selection process for the general practitioner (GP) pathfinders.

Strategic health authority (SHA)	*Consortium name—cohort 1 (52 pathfinders)*
East of England	Cambridgeshire Association to Commissioning Health (CATCH)
East of England	East Suffolk Federation
East of England	Fortis Group
East of England	HealthEast CIC
East of England	Hunts Health
East of England	Ipscom
East of England	The Red House Group

Strategic health authority (SHA)	*Consortium name—cohort 1 (52 pathfinders)*
East Midlands	Principia
East Midlands	Bassetlaw Commissioning Organisation
East Midlands	Nene Commissioning Organisation
London	Bexley Clinical Cabinet
London	Ealing Commissioning Consortium
London	Great West Commissioning Consortium
London	Kingston Consortium
London	Newham Health Partnership
London	Redbridge
London	Southwark Health Commissioning (SHC)
London	The Sutton Consortium
North East	Newcastle Bridges GP Commissioning Consortia
North East	Langbaurgh
North East	County Durham
North West	Cumbria Senate
North West	Salford PBC Consortium
North West	Stockport Managed Care
North West	Manchester (North Central and South)
North West	West Cheshire Health Consortium
North West	Wirral GP Commissioning Consortium
North West	Eastern Cheshire Commissioning Consortium
North West	Trafford Commissioning Consortium
North West	Fleetwood Community Commissioning Group
North West	Wirral NHS Alliance
South Central	Basingstoke
South Central	Bracknell Forest
South Central	Buckinghamshire
South Central	Oxfordshire
South Central	South East Hampshire
South Central	South Reading
South East Coast	North East West Sussex Association of Commissioning Consortia
South East Coast	Coastal West Sussex Federation
South East Coast	Surrey Heath
South East Coast	Thames Medical
South East Coast	Guildford and Waverley
South East Coast	Dartford Gravesham and Swanley
South West	Baywide GPCC Limited
South West	Sentinel Healthcare Southwest Community Interest Company
South West	WyvernHealth
South West	South Glos Consortium Ltd
West Midlands	South Birmingham Integrated Clinical Commissioning Consortium
West Midlands	Dudley GP Commissioning Consortium
West Midlands	Herefordshire GP Commissioning Consortium
Yorkshire and the Humber	Doncaster Commissioning Consortium
Yorkshire and the Humber	North East Lincolnshire Commissioning Consortium

SHA	*Consortium name—cohort 2 (89 pathfinders)*
East of England	North East Essex GP Commissioning Group
East of England	North Norfolk Health Consortium
East of England	West Essex Commissioning Consortia
East of England	Herts Valleys GP Commissioning Consortium
East of England	Essex GP Commissioning
East Midlands	Nottingham City
East Midlands	Lincoln West
East Midlands	East Lindsey
East Midlands	Wellcomm
East Midlands	Independent Practices Cluster
London	Brent GP Federation
London	Central London Healthcare (Westminster)
London	Croydon Healthcare Consortium
London	Kensington and Chelsea GP Commissioning Consortium
London	Victoria Commissioning Consortium (Westminster)
London	Waltham Forest Federated GP Consortium
North East	Gateshead (GatNet)
North East	Northumberland Commissioning Consortia
North West	Blackpool Commissioning Consortia
North West	Bolton GP Commissioning Consortium
North West	Vale Royal Commissioning Consortium
North West	Commissioning for Oldham Group
North West	South Sefton Commissioning Confederation
North West	Wirral Health Commissioning Consortium
North West	StHealth
South Central	Slough
South Central	Isle of Wight
South Central	Newbury
South Central	N and W Reading
South Central	Wokingham
South East Coast	DASH (Deal, Ash and Sandwich Health)
South East Coast	Dover
South East Coast	C4 Canterbury
South East Coast	Thanet
South East Coast	Whitstable Practice
South East Coast	East Cliff Practice
South East Coast	Maidstone and Mailing
South East Coast	Eastbourne
South East Coast	Hastings and Rother
South East Coast	EsyDoc
South East Coast	East Elmbridge
South East Coast	Mid Surrey
South East Coast	MedLinc
South East Coast	Golden Valley
South East Coast	Woking
South West	Bournemouth and Poole
South West	Inner City and East Bristol Locality
South West	North and West Bristol Locality
South West	South Bristol Consortia
South West	East Cornwall Commissioning Consortium
South West	Carrick Commissioning Consortium
South West	South Hams and West Devon Commissioning Group
South West	Eastern (Devon) Consortia Chairs Board
South West	Dorset GP Commissioning Consortium
South West	Cheltenham, Cleeve and Winchcombe PBC Consortium
South West	Federation of Bridgewater Practices
South West	Mid Cornwall Medical PBC Commissioning Group
South West	North Cornwall Commissioning Consortia

SHA	*Consortium name—cohort 2 (89 pathfinders)*
South West	North Somerset Consortium
South West	BANES GP Consortium
South West	South Devon Commissioning Consortium
South West	North Devon Locality Commissioning Group
South West	East Mendip Federation
South West	5 Wiltshire Consortia—WWYKD, East Kennet, Alliance, Western, North Wiltshire
South West	Gloucestershire
West Midlands	Black Country GP Consortium
West Midlands	Solihull Commissioning
West Midlands	South Birmingham Independent Consortium
West Midlands	Stafford and Surrounds Consortium
West Midlands	Cannock Chase Commissioning Consortium
West Midlands	Telford and Wrekin GP Commissioning Group
West Midlands	South Worcestershire GP Commissioning
West Midlands	Wyre Forest GP Commissioning Consortium
West Midlands	Walsall GP Consortium
Yorkshire and the Humber	Calderdale Commissioning Consortia
Yorkshire and the Humber	East Riding Transition Group
Yorkshire and the Humber	Leeds (3 Consortia—combined pathfinder: H3 Plus Commissioning Grp/ Leodis Healthcare LLP/ Calibre)
Yorkshire and the Humber	Hambleton and Richmondshire
Yorkshire and the Humber	Harrogate and Rural District
Yorkshire and the Humber	Central Consortium
Yorkshire and the Humber	Hallam and South Consortium
Yorkshire and the Humber	North Sheffield Consortium for Health
Yorkshire and the Humber	West Consortium
Yorkshire and the Humber	Wakefield Alliance Commissioning
Yorkshire and the Humber	South Elmsall and Rycroft Consortium
Yorkshire and the Humber	Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven
Yorkshire and the Humber	Citycare
Yorkshire and the Humber	South and West Bradford
Yorkshire and the Humber	Bingley and North

Health Services: Foreign Nationals

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress his Department has made of its review of access to the NHS by foreign nationals; [34419]

(2) how much the NHS received from chargeable patients in each year since 1997; [34420]

(3) how much income due to the NHS from chargeable patients since 1997 has not been collected. [34557]

Anne Milton: The total audited income from overseas patients under non-reciprocal arrangements and total losses, bad debt and claims abandoned for overseas visitors for years 2002-03 to 2009-10, for which figures are available for England, are shown in the following table.

	Non reciprocal income received (£)	*Bad debts and claims abandoned in respect of overseas patients (£)*
2002-03		2,109,000
2003-04	9,178,000	3,334,173
2004-05	10,883,000	2,369,650
2005-06	13,070,000	3,883,017
2006-07	15,182,925	5,046,763
2007-08	18,167,000	6,468,751
2008-09	17,541,000	5,204,856
2009-10	17,127,000	6,967,780

Notes:

1. 2003-04 was the first year we separately identified income from overseas patients under non reciprocal agreements. Therefore there is no data before this time.

2. We do not collect data from National Health Service Foundation Trusts so figures from 2004-05 onwards exclude these sites.

Source:

National Health Service Trust Audited Summarisation Schedules.

The Government are considering the responses to the previous administration's consultation document titled "Review of access to the national health service by foreign nationals".

Health: Advertising

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on advertising for the purposes of *(a)* public health promotion and *(b)* raising awareness of its services in 2010. [33277]

Anne Milton: The Department's estimated expenditure on advertising for public health promotion for 2010 was £25,002,000. This is a provisional figure because the invoicing for some campaigns run towards the end of the year will not have been completed.

The figures do not include recruitment or classified advertising costs. Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs. Central Office of Information commission and VAT). All figures exclude advertising rebates and audit adjustments and therefore may differ from Central Office of Information official turnover figures.

The Department has not undertaken any advertising in 2010 to raise awareness of its services.

Influenza: Vaccination

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of doses of influenza vaccine available in NHS facilities in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* Warrington. [34037]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not held centrally. General practitioners (GPs) in England order seasonal influenza vaccine direct from the manufacturers, according to their patients' needs.

About 14.5 million doses have been ordered (both private and national health service) from vaccine suppliers from the United Kingdom. Seasonal flu vaccine quantities each year are usually between 14 million and 15 million doses.

The Department is aware of some reports of seasonal influenza vaccine supply issues in some areas. The NHS is working to ensure that any local vaccine shortages are managed effectively.

The Department is working with the NHS at the local level to ensure available supplies of surplus vaccine are moved to where there is a need for them. The chief medical officer wrote to GPs in England on 6 January to confirm that they can use the H1N1 monovalent influenza vaccine Pandemrix, which will help protect people most at risk against the H1N1 virus which is causing the most illness. A copy of this letter has already been placed in the Library.

There are potentially over 12 million doses of Pandemrix available to the NHS if needed.

The Secretary of State has already agreed for a review of procurement options of the seasonal flu vaccine to be undertaken, including central procurement, although no decisions have yet been made.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he made the decision to launch the 2010-11 seasonal influenza public awareness campaign. [34244]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State for Health received and considered advice on this issue over the Christmas period in response to data on rising rates of flu infection in England.

The Catch it, Bin it, Kill it campaign is designed to encourage behaviours likely to slow the spread of flu. Research from previous Catch It Bin It Kill It campaigns shows that advertising was most likely to be effective when there were high levels of awareness about flu and colds circulating in the community.

Mental Health: Offenders

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of treating offenders with mental health problems in the community in each of the next five years; how much funding he plans to allocate to such treatment; and if he will make a statement. [34038]

Paul Burstow: The national health service is responsible for the commissioning of mental health care for offenders whether they are in prison or in the community. Decisions about funding are currently made by primary care trusts and, subject to passage of the appropriate legislation, will in the future be taken by general practice consortia and the NHS Commissioning Board.

The Department is working with the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office to roll out a national diversion service at police stations and at courts by 2014. Working with the police and courts, we will identify a number of pathfinder sites that will help identify best practice, quantify the benefits, and develop appropriate quality standards.

NHS: Fees and Charges

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 172W, on health services: overseas visitors, whether he has completed consideration of the policy of extending to six months per year the permitted period of absence for current UK residents who are not pensioners during which they are not liable to be charged for hospital treatment. [34521]

Anne Milton: The Government are considering the responses to the previous administration's consultation document titled "Review of access to the National Health Service by foreign nationals", which included a proposal to extend to up to six months per year the permitted period of absence for current United Kingdom residents who are not pensioners before they may be liable to be charged for hospital treatment.

NHS: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what directions his Department has issued to *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* other trusts on the annual amount by which capital expenditure must be reduced over the next three years. [34096]

Mr Simon Burns: There have been no directions issued to the national health service directly instructing them to reduce their capital expenditure over the next three years.

NHS capital expenditure is managed through an annual planning process, which allows local decision making to determine the priority areas for investment. Forecasts for future years are also included in these plans.

Although the available capital will be reduced over the spending review, it will remain higher in real-terms over the next four years than spending in 2007-08 or any year before.

The Department expects NHS plans to be affordable on this basis.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress he has made on achieving savings in the NHS. [34249]

Mr Simon Burns: The spending review set out the Government's commitment to delivering efficiency improvements in the national health service of up to £20 billion over the next four years (from 2011-12 through 2014-15). This includes a saving of £1.9 billion in the costs of administration across the health system. All savings will be available to re-invest in improving services and outcomes for patients.

The approach to delivering these savings has been developed bottom-up with individual NHS organisations formulating their own plans to deliver quality and efficiency improvements, based upon their own specific local circumstances and priorities, recognising variations in how services are provided and the scale of the challenge. While this process is focussed on the spending review period commencing in April 2011, many NHS organisations are already delivering savings and quality improvements locally.

For example, in Yorkshire and the Humber, staff are working to save £22.5 million across the region by reducing infections, pressure ulcers, falls and deterioration in the form of deep vein thrombosis and clots. Nationally these currently cost the NHS £1 billion a year. Simple systems designed by staff and understood by everyone involved can dramatically improve safety records and deliver safer care to patients every day.

The Department has also taken action centrally to deliver savings, including through strict cross-Government controls introduced in May 2010 on areas of spending including consultancy, communications and marketing and information technology projects. It has also undertaken a thorough review of all health arm's length bodies, which will reduce their number from 18 to between eight and 10 and deliver savings of around £180 million annually by 2014-15.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the level of debt or surplus held by each primary care trust *(a)* in 2009-10 and *(b)* on the most recent date for which figures are available. [34697]

Mr Simon Burns: Tables showing the surplus or deficit in each primary care trust in 2009-10 and forecast of Quarter two 2010-11, which is the most recent date for which figures are available, have been placed in the Library.

Older People: Domestic Accidents

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to reduce the number of falls experienced by elderly people in their homes which result in a hospital visit. [34019]

Paul Burstow: Hip fractures remain the most serious consequence of a fall in older people and there is a significant programme of work in development by the Department to reduce the number of falls and fractures that occur in England. This includes the consideration of indicators that relate to falls and fragility fractures as part of the NHS Outcomes Framework, the Department's 2009 publication of a Falls and Fractures Commissioning Toolkit, the Best Practice Tariff that is in place which incentivises high quality care in hip fracture patients and National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on hip fracture care.

The majority of fractures in older people occur as a result from a fall from standing height, commonly affecting the pelvis, wrist, upper arm or hip. Recurrent falls are often a manifestation of impaired postural stability. This can result from a combination of factors, such as conditions like arthritis, stroke or Parkinson's disease, age-related frailty and long-term cardio-respiratory conditions leading to loss of strength, balance and concentration or insight. External factors can contribute to falls, such as poor or cold housing or behavioural issues such as excessive alcohol consumption.

We have also made additional funding available to primary care trusts (PCTs) in order to support social care services. On 4 January 2011, the Department announced it was providing £162 million to PCTs that they will transfer to local authorities for immediate spending on social care services to benefit health, and to improve overall health gain. PCTs will need to work together with local authorities to agree jointly on appropriate areas for social care investment, and the outcomes expected from this investment. The investment may be used to support and maintain existing services such as telecare, community directed prevention (including falls prevention), community equipment and adaptations, and crisis response services. The Department would expect these decisions to take into account the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for their local population, and the existing commissioning plans for both health and social care. PCTs will work with local authorities to achieve these outcomes in a transparent and efficient manner, with local authorities keeping PCTs informed of progress using appropriate local mechanisms.

The 2011-12 Operating Framework for the national health service in England includes a focus on joint working between the NHS and its local Government partners, especially in the area of community-directed prevention (including falls prevention) and backs this up with further PCT allocations totalling £648 million. These allocations will be transferred to local authorities for spending on social care services to benefit health in the next financial year. This is part of a package of additional funding, worth £1.3 billion in 2011-12, that will support the delivery of social care in the context of a challenging local government settlement.

Primary Care Trusts: Manpower

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff were employed in primary care trusts on 1 January 2011. [34248]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not yet available. It will be published on 22 March 2011 by the NHS Information Centre.

The most current monthly data available is for September 2010, however, this is not census data and the differences to the census can be found in the technical paper "Technical Data: Differences between the 2009 Census and the September 2009 data in the new monthly publication" which is published by the NHS Information Centre and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/nhs-staff-numbers/provisional-monthly-nhs-hospital-and-community-health-service-hchs-workforce-statistics-in-england

A copy of the above document has been placed in the Library.

Rehabilitation: Health Services

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of *(a)* smoking, *(b)* alcohol and *(c)* drug-related illnesses in each of the last three years. [34003]

Anne Milton: The Department does not maintain an annual record of the cost to the national health service of treating people with alcohol, drugs or tobacco-related diseases.

However, academic research has indicated that the direct cost to the NHS of treating people with tobacco related-illnesses in England is £2.7 billion per annum

(Callum C. (2008) 'The cost of smoking to the NHS'"\n Health Economics, Policy and Law'). This report is available online at:

http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayFulltext?type=1&pdftype=1&fid=7879505&jid=HEP&volumeId=-1&issueId=&aid=7879503

The Department reviewed the cost of alcohol related harm to the NHS in 2008. The cost of alcohol misuse to the NHS in England was estimated to be £2.7 billion per year for 2006-07 ('The Cost of alcohol harm to the NHS, Department of Health', 2008, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library)

The Department has also estimated the cost of Class A drug use to the NHS in 2008-09 to be £585 million.

This estimate was calculated using the following academic reports: Gordon L. Tinsley L. Godfrey C. et al. (2006) 'The economic and social costs of class A drug use in England and Wales 2003/04', Singleton N. Murray R. Tinsley L. 'Measuring different aspects of problem drug use: methodological developments. Home Office Online Report 16/06' and L. Curtis 'Unit Costs of Health and Social Care 2010', Personal Social Services Research Unit.

Community drug treatment is funded by the Department through the Pooled Treatment Budget (PTB). The PTB is £406 million in 2010-11 and covers drug treatment for adults and young people. This budget includes £22 million from the Ministry of Justice as a contribution towards the delivery of drug rehabilitation requirements. Local primary care trusts also make an additional £156 million in health funding available to support drug treatment.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Health Services

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding each primary care trust allocated to treating and preventing sexually transmitted infections in *(a)* each of the last five financial years and (b) 2010-11. [34698]

Anne Milton: Information on programme budgeting estimates of primary care trust (PCTs) expenditure on treatment of sexually transmitted infections and HIV and AIDS from 2006-07, the first year for which figures are available to 2009-10, the latest year for which figures are available, has been placed in the Library. Information on how much PCTs allocated to prevention is not collected centrally.

Spinal Injuries: Health Services

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has for the future of spinal injury centres; [34035]

(2) how many spinal cord injuries were treated in NHS facilities in *(a)* Sunderland, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England in each year since 2000. [34036]

Paul Burstow: The number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with a primary diagnosis of 'spinal cord injuries' and a count of how many of those FCEs also had recorded a procedure or intervention, are provided in the following table.

	Total FCEs			*FCEs with a procedure or intervention*		
	National	*North East strategic health authority*	*Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust*	*National*	*NESHA*	*Sunderland Teaching PCT*
2009-10	793	84	0	556	60	0
2008-09	791	100	*	554	68	0
2007-08	868	124	*	622	112	*
2006-07	834	114	..	394	48	
2005-06	801	111	*	220	38	0
2004-05	662	64	0	144	21	0
2003-04	630	57	0	159	22	0
2002-03	533	63	*	141	26	0
2001-02	416	31	*	120	8	0
2000-01	368	7	0	92	0	0

Note:

These data are presented as a count of FCEs rather than treatments, more than one spinal cord treatment could have been undertaken in a single FCE; also a single patient could have had multiple FCEs. Data for Sunderland Teaching PCT is unavailable for 2006-07 due to an issue with data processing. There are no instances of six or more FCEs treated within Sunderland Teaching PCT therefore these data have been suppressed.

Prior to 1 April 2006 'North East SHA' existed as 'Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA' and 'County Durham and Tees Valley SHA'

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

There are currently no plans to change spinal injury centres.

Stem Cells: Medical Treatments

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the use of blood stem cell transplantation for non-cancerous diseases and conditions. [34481]

Anne Milton: Data collated by the British Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation, in 2009 indicates that 150 (20%) of donor stem cell transplants carried out in the United Kingdom were for non-cancerous conditions such as bone marrow failure, immunodeficiency, haemoglobinopathy, inherited metabolic disorders, and autoimmune conditions.

EDUCATION

Academies: Kent

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many academies in Kent are university-assisted; and if he will make a statement. [32777]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 10 January 2011]:* Five Academies in Kent are co-sponsored by universities. The Department and the Young People's Learning Agency do not hold details on other possible informal partnership and support arrangements with universities in Kent.

Baroness Campbell: Meetings

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Chesterfield of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 628, on secondary school standards, where meetings with Baroness Campbell took place; who was present at each such meeting; how long each such meeting lasted; what subjects were discussed at each such meeting; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the agenda and minutes of each such meeting; [27463]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1070-71W, on the Youth Sport Trust, on what date each meeting with *(a)* Baroness Campbell and *(b)* the Youth Sport Trust took place; who was present at each meeting; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting. [32892]

Tim Loughton *[holding answers 29 November 2010 and 11 January 2011]:* The Secretary of State met Baroness Campbell on a number of occasions before the general election. After the election he met her at the launch of the Olympic and Paralympic style school sport competition at the City of London Academy in Southwark, on 28 June. A range of people were present at these meetings. The event in Southwark lasted an hour. The Secretary of State also met the baroness on 16 December 2010, for around 20 minutes at the Department for Education in Westminster. No agendas or minutes were produced for these meetings.

Class Sizes: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many bulge classes there are in schools in the London Borough of Newham; and in which school years. [31588]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The latest statistics on class sizes can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

table 14A.

Dance: Finance

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department will provide to national dance centres for advanced training from April 2011 onwards. [33038]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 January 2011]:* The coalition Government support the Music and Dance scheme, which has successfully supported the education and vocational training of exceptionally talented young musicians and dancers. We shall take decisions about the future funding of the Music and Dance scheme in the context of the forthcoming recommendations by Darren Henley, Managing Director of Classic FM, following his review of music education.

Departmental Communication

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Dundee of 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 12-13W, on departmental communication, what record his Department holds of *(a)* instances of complaints by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families on the quality of (i) speeches and (ii) briefings provided to him by officials and *(b)* the steps taken in consequence. [29040]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 December 2010]:* There is no record of any complaints by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families.

Departmental Written Questions

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has a target for providing a substantive answer to questions tabled for answer on a named day. [29768]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 9 December 2010]:* The Department has historically set an internal target of 90% of named day PQs to receive a substantive answer on the named day. As the volume of named day PQs has increased by approximately 50% since the election, we are reviewing both the internal targets and the resources available to answer questions.

Discretionary Learner Support Awards

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was spent under each budget heading on the discretionary learner support awards in the last 12 months. [32112]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 January 2011]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the discretionary learner support funding for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Scunthorpe with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 22 December 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ32112 that asked:

"How much was spent under each budget heading on the discretionary Learner Support awards in the last 12 months."

Allocations to providers for discretionary Learner Support for the academic year 2010/11 are made in three stages—August 2010, December 2010 and March 2011. The amounts paid so far against each budget line are:

	£
16-18 Hardship	18,772,965
16-18 Residential bursary funding	3,889,683
19+ Hardship	32,924,475
20+ Childcare	24,606,521
19+ Residential bursary funding	1,787,226

The allocations for the academic year 2009/10 were:

	£
16-18 Hardship	26,792,915
16-18 Residential bursary funding	5,446,446
19+ Hardship	43,382,391
20+ Childcare	33,109,763
19+ Residential bursary funding	2,121,853

These figures are based on allocations and validated amounts of actual spend will be published in the YPLA Annual Report.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what provision he has made for the administrative costs of the Discretionary Learner Support Fund in 2010-11; and from which of his Department's budgets such costs will be met. [32410]

Mr Gibb: Currently colleges and training providers who are in receipt of discretionary learner support funds can use up to 5% of their allocation for administrative costs. We will consider what provision should be made for the administrative costs of the new enhanced discretionary learner support fund as we finalise the arrangements for that scheme. In doing so we will consult with schools, colleges and training organisations.

Early Intervention Grant: Young People

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of the Early Intervention Grant will fund community activities for young people; and if he will make a statement. [32080]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 12 January 2011]:* In challenging times the Government are freeing local authorities to focus on essential frontline services, and to invest in early intervention and prevention to produce long-term savings and better results for children, young people and families. A key element of this approach is the creation of a new Early Intervention Grant for local authorities in England, worth £2,212 million in 2011-12 and £2,297 million in 2012-13. It replaces a number of former funding streams, which are listed in a note on my Department's website. The Early Intervention Grant is not ring-fenced, so it is for each local authority to determine what proportion of the grant will fund community activities for young people.

Education

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make it his policy to ensure that compulsory education includes both vocational and academic routes of study. [32766]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State for Education has asked Professor Alison Wolf to carry out a review of vocational education and we will also shortly be announcing details of our plans to review the National Curriculum. The outcomes of both reviews will inform any future policy development.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Liverpool Wavertree

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many young people resident in *(a)* Liverpool, Wavertree constituency and *(b)* Liverpool, are eligible for education maintenance allowance; [31763]

(2) how many young people resident in *(a)* Liverpool, Wavertree constituency and *(b)* Liverpool have applied for education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme's inception. [31764]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 20 December 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions PQ31763 and PQ31764 that asked:

"How many young people resident in (a) Liverpool Wavertree constituency and (b) Liverpool are eligible for educational maintenance allowance."

"How many young people resident in (a) Liverpool Wavertree constituency and (b) Liverpool have applied for educational maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme's inception."

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

We do not hold information on which young people and households are eligible for (EMA), only on the number of young people who apply for the scheme.

As at 30 November 2010, the take-up figure for young people in Liverpool who have received EMA during the 2010/11 academic year was 6,397.

The table below show applications and take-up data for Liverpool local authority.

Academic year	*Applications*	*Successful applicants*	*Unsuccessful applications*
2004/05	5,827	5,676	151
2005/06	6,434	6,312	122
2006/07	7,788	7,652	136
2007/08	7,913	7,778	135
2008/09	7,464	7,213	251
2009/10*	4,167	4,075	92
2010/11* (as at 30 November 10)	3,391	3,335	56

Continuing learners in the years marked '*' did not need to submit a new application for EMA for that year as they were covered by the EMA Guarantee.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Education Maintenance Allowance: Birmingham Ladywood

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency have received the education maintenance allowance (EMA) since its inception; and how much EMA has been paid out to such children in that period. [31119]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 20 December 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ31119 that asked:

"How many children in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency have received the education maintenance allowance (EMA) since its inception; and how much EMA has been paid out to such children in that period."

Information on the number of young people who have received EMA is available at Local Authority (LA) level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

Birmingham LA take-up data:

Academic year	*Take-up*
2010-11 (at 31 October 2010)	18,107
2009-10 (at 31 August 2010)	19,862
2008-09 (at 31 August 2009)	17,516
2007-08 (at 31 August 2008)	17,117
2006-07 (at 31 August 2007)	16,531
2005-06 (at 31 August 2006)	14,182
2004-05 (at 31 August 2005)	12,749

In 2009/10 (the last complete EMA year for which we have figures) the total EMA expenditure on Birmingham LA residents was £17,215,070 (of which £14,427,960 was spent on weekly payments and £2,787,110 on bonus payments).

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in Birmingham, Ladywood receive education maintenance allowance (EMA); and what steps his Department is taking to assist students who will not receive EMA in the next academic year to prepare for its replacement. [31394]

Mr Gibb: The question of numbers of recipients is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member for Birmingham Ladywood with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

The EMA scheme will close entirely at the end of the 2010/11 academic year. It will be replaced by an enhanced discretionary learner support fund, which will be administered by schools, colleges and training providers. We are working with the Association of Colleges, Sutton Trust and others as we finalise the arrangements for the new fund, including support for students in advance of the changes.

Letter from Peter Lauener dated, 20 December 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ31394 that asked: "How many students in Birmingham, Ladywood receive education maintenance allowance (EMA); and what steps his Department is taking to assist students who will not receive EMA in the next academic year to prepare for its replacement."

Information on the number of young people who have received EMA is available at Local Authority level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

As at 30 November 2010 the take-up figure for Birmingham Local Authority was 18,107.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

The YPLA is responsible for the delivery of EMA. The Department for Education is responsible for policy and will answer the second part of your question regarding future assistance for students.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Brighton and Hove

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much his Department's predecessor spent on education maintenance allowance in *(a)* the city of Brighton and Hove and *(b)* Hove constituency in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009; [32303]

(2) how many children in *(a)* the city of Brighton and Hove and *(b)* Hove constituency took up education maintenance allowance in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009. [32304]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Hove with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 22 December 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions PQ32303 and PQ32304 that asked:

"How many children in (a) the city of Brighton and Hove and (b) Hove constituency took up education maintenance allowance in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009."

"How much his Department's predecessor spent on education maintenance allowance in (a) the city of Brighton and Hove and (b) Hove constituency in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009."

Information on the number of young people who have received EMA is available at Local Authority level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The take-up figures for Brighton and Hove are:

Academic year	*Take-up*
2007/08	2,248
2008/09	2,243
2009/10	2,647

The total spent on EMA in the Brighton and Hove area for the 2009/10 Academic Year was £2,336,465. Precise information for 2007/08 and 2008/09 is not available but the average weekly payments have been consistently at £27 or more.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Education Maintenance Allowance: Greater London

Dr Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people claimed education maintenance allowance in each local authority area in Greater London in each year since 2005; and how much was claimed in each borough in each such year by amount for the time period 2005-10. [32921]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 10 January 2011]*: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member for Walthamstow with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Redditch

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in Redditch constituency received education maintenance allowance in each of the last five years. [32242]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member for Redditch with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 21 December 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ32242.

Information on the number of young people who have received EMA is available at Local Authority level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

Take-up figures for Worcestershire Local Authority are:

Academic year	*Take-up*
2006/07	5,371
2007/08	5,513
2008/09	5,267
2009/10	5,449
2010/11 (as at 30 November)	5,745

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Education Maintenance Allowance: Wolverhampton

Mr McFadden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in Wolverhampton are in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [31496]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the right hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 21 December 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ 031496.

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

As at 30 November 2010, the take-up figure for young people in Wolverhampton who have received EMA during the 2010/11 academic year was 4,051.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Education White Paper

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* representations he has received on and *(b)* assessment he has made of the effect on rural areas of the proposals in the Education White Paper. [31238]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State has received no formal representations on the effect of "The Importance of Teaching: the Schools White Paper" on rural areas. However, rural schools are represented in the stakeholder groups with which the Department for Education consults on schools policy development and delivery, namely the Secondary Heads Reference Group, the Primary Heads Reference Group and the Bureaucracy Reduction Group. Discussions with stakeholder groups are ongoing on the implications of the White Paper for rural schools.

The Department for Education fulfilled its statutory obligations by publishing full economic and equality impact assessments alongside the Schools White Paper. It did not complete a separate formal assessment of its effect on rural areas. Officials are considering the impact of individual policies on rural schools in the light of feedback from stakeholders.

Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on allegations of the teaching of anti-Semitic ideology in British Madrasas, funded from sources in Saudi Arabia. [27390]

Mr Gibb: I am aware of the recent Panorama report including allegations about the teaching materials used by Saudi Students Schools and Clubs UK. The Government are clear that homophobic or anti-Semitic material must not be used in English schools. Ofsted is already working in the area of part-time education and the Secretary of State has asked for their views on how to address concerns about such provision.

Free School Meals

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children who attended *(a)* maintained primary schools, *(b)* Catholic maintained primary schools, *(c)* maintained secondary schools and *(d)* Catholic maintained secondary schools were eligible for free school meals in 2009-10. [31036]

Mr Gibb: Information on the number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals is shown in the table. This includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15.

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary schools[1,2] school meal arrangements[3,4], as at January 2010

	Roman Catholic maintained primary schools[1]	*Other maintained primary schools[1,5]*	*Total maintained primary schools[1]*	*Roman Catholic state-funded secondary schools[1,2]*	*Other state-funded secondary schools[1,2,5]*	*Total state-funded secondary schools[1,2]*
Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[3,4]	60,810	648,560	709,370	37,890	403,260	441,140
Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[3,4]	15.9	18.8	18.5	13.9	15.6	15.4

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[4] Includes pupils who have full time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

[5] Includes non-religious schools, schools of other faiths, multi-faith schools and multi-denominational schools.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Free School Meals: Greater London

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in *(a)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency, *(b)* each other parliamentary constituency in London and *(c)* each London borough received free school meals in the last four years. [30211]

Mr Gibb: Information on the number of pupils known to be eligible and claiming free school meals in each parliamentary constituency from 2007 to 2010 has been placed in the House Libraries. This includes full time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part time pupils aged 5 to 15.

The local authority level tables can be found in the following Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics Statistical First Releases:

2010 release, tables 11a, b and c:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

2009 release, tables 11a, b and c:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000843/index.shtml

2008 release, tables B8, B9 and B20:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

2007 release, tables 19, 20 and 29:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

Information is not available on those pupils who meet the eligibility criteria but do not make a claim.

Free School Meals: Redditch

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in Redditch constituency claim free school meals; and what rate of take-up this represents. [32241]

Mr Gibb: The number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals is shown in the table.

Information is not available on those pupils who meet the eligibility criteria but do not make a claim.

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1], State-funded secondary[1,2] and special schools[3]: School meal arrangements[4,5], as at January 2010—In England and Redditch parliamentary constituency

	Nursery and Primary Schools[1]			*State-funded secondary schools[1,2]*			*Special schools[3]*		
	Number on roll[4,5]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[4,5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[4,5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
England	3,838,680	711,410	18.5	2,864,350	441,140	15.4	78,330	27,330	34.9
Redditch	4,501	786	17.5	6,224	912	14.7	168	62	36.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[5] Pupils who have full time attendance and are aged 15 and under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

Note:

Figures for England have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Higher Education: Finance

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the effects of the Government's proposals for funding of higher education on the future supply of qualified teachers; and if he will make a statement. [31475]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* The Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", makes clear the Government's commitment to continuing improvement in the quality of teaching in schools, including attracting more high quality graduates into teaching. In early 2011, we will publish a discussion document on initial teacher training that will build on, and take account of, the proposals from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on reforms to higher education and to student finance.

Home Education England

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of children who were home-schooled in each constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. [31994]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect information about the numbers of home-schooled children and does not make estimates of the number of home-schooled children in each constituency.

North East England

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which Ministers of his Department have visited the North East since their appointment; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose was of each such visit. [31796]

Tim Loughton: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education visited the North East in December 2010, during which he visited the following school and colleges:

Consett Community Sports College, County Durham

Stanley Technology College, Durham

Duchess of Alnwick School, Alnwick

No other Minister has visited the North East in an official capacity since their appointment although I have visits planned in the diary shortly.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanisms will be in place to ensure that rural primary schools with high standards of achievement are not adversely affected by the implementation of the proposed pupil premium. [28232]

Mr Gibb: The pupil premium will provide additional funding for every disadvantaged pupil in the country and will not adversely affect any schools, or in itself cause any school to see a drop in its funding. The recent spending review protected overall school funding at the current cash per pupil level, with the pupil premium being provided in addition to this. All pupils who are eligible for free school meals will receive the pupil premium in 2011-12.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of the funds allocated to the pupil premium are to be allocated to *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas; what estimate he has made of the number of pupils in (i) rural and (ii) urban areas who will benefit from the pupil premium; and if he will make a statement. [31237]

Mr Gibb: It is not yet possible to be certain about the amount of money that will be allocated to urban and rural areas or how many pupils will attract the deprivation pupil premium. The deprivation pupil premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils that are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) as recorded on the January 2011 school census. Each FSM pupil will attract £430 of funding which will go direct to the school or academy if the pupil is in a mainstream setting or will be managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting.

The January 2010 school census allows an estimate of the urban/rural allocation to be determined. Based on this estimate:

(a) 92% of the pupil premium will go to urban areas

(b) 8% of the pupil premium will go to rural areas

Pupils: Foreign Nationals

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children registered in schools in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each local authority area did not list their country of origin as either the UK or another EU member state in each of the last three years. [32174]

Mr Gibb: Information on the country of origin of pupils is not centrally collected.

The latest information on the ethnic origin of pupils is shown in the following table.

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1]: number and percentage of pupils by ethnic group [4]: January 2010 (provisional)—England

	Pupils of compulsory school age and above					
	Maintained Primary Schools[1]		*State-Funded Secondary Schools[1,2]*		*Special Schools[3]*	
	Number	*Percentage[5]*	*Number*	*Percentage[5]*	*Number*	*Percentage[5]*
White	2,535,780	78.5	2,638,190	81.2	69,440	80.8
White British	2,385,290	73.8	2,510,710	77.3	66,650	77.6
Irish	10,310	0.3	11,620	0.4	260	0.3
Traveller of Irish heritage	2,840	0.1	1,090	0.0	70	0.1
Gypsy/Roma	7,190	0.2	3,620	0.1	190	0.2

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1]: number and percentage of pupils by ethnic group [4]; January 2010 (provisional)—England

	Pupils of compulsory school age and above					
	Maintained Primary Schools[1]		State-Funded Secondary Schools[1 2]		Special Schools[3]	
	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]
Any other White background	130,170	4.0	111,150	3.4	2,270	2.6
Mixed	140,290	4.3	113,340	3.5	3,310	3.9
White and Black Caribbean	42,730	1.3	38,440	1.2	1,200	1.4
White and Black African	16,050	0.5	11,470	0.4	340	0.4
White and Asian	30,500	0.9	23,540	0.7	570	0.7
Any other Mixed background	51,010	1.6	39,890	1.2	1,210	1.4
Asian	310,960	9.6	258,180	7.9	6,530	7.6
Indian	81,590	2.5	80,840	2.5	1,340	1.6
Pakistani	131,470	4.1	96,530	3.0	3,330	3.9
Bangladeshi	53,940	1.7	40,580	1.2	900	1.0
Any other Asian background	43,960	1.4	40,170	1.2	950	1.1
Black	163,750	5.1	143,940	4.4	4,560	5.3
Black Caribbean	45,210	1.4	44,790	1.4	1,400	1.6
Black African	99,060	3.1	83,270	2.6	2,440	2.8
Any other Black background	19,480	0.6	15,870	0.5	720	0.8
Chinese	11,040	0.3	13,430	0.4	220	0.3
Any other ethnic group	46,850	1.5	39,200	1.2	840	1.0
Classified[4]	3,208,670	99.3	3,206,260	98.7	84,900	98.8
Unclassified[6]	21,450	0.7	42,150	1.3	1,000	1.2
Minority Ethnic Pupils[7]	823,390	25.5	695,550	21.4	18,250	21.2
All pupils[8]	3,230,120	100.0	3,248,410	100.0	85,900	100.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes General Hospital Schools.

[4] Pupils of compulsory school age and above were classified according to ethnic group. Excludes dually registered pupils.

[5] The number of pupils by ethnic group expressed as a percentage of all pupils of compulsory school age and above.

[6] Information refused or not obtained.

[7] Includes all pupils classified as belonging to an ethnic group other than White British.

[8] All pupils of compulsory school age and above.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to equalise his Department's expenditure per pupil. [23560]

Mr Gibb: For 2011-12, we are continuing with the current methodology for providing funding to local authorities for schools, to allow for the clear and transparent introduction of the pupil premium. However, in the Schools White Paper "The Importance of Teaching", published on 24 November, we set out our longer term vision for reforming school funding.

Our long-term aspiration is to move to a national funding formula to ensure that resources going to schools are transparent, logical and equitable. In order to ensure any move to a new national funding formula is fair, transparent and managed carefully, we will invite views on: the merits of moving to such a formula, the right time to begin the transition to a formula, the transitional arrangements necessary to ensure that schools and local authorities do not suffer undue turbulence, and the factors to take into account in order to assess the needs of pupils for funding purposes. We will publish a consultation in the spring of 2011, following discussion with interested parties including local authorities, school leaders and teachers' associations.

Schools: Asbestos

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will commission a national audit to determine the *(a)* extent, *(b)* type, *(c)* condition and *(d)* current management arrangements for asbestos in school buildings. [31152]

Mr Gibb: In January 2009 the then Department for Children Schools and Families carried out a survey of the management of asbestos in system-built schools to confirm that the school duty holders were managing asbestos correctly. The survey focused on system-built schools, such as CLASP, as these are most likely to contain high levels of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs).

The majority of local authorities demonstrated that they have procedures and precautions in place to manage asbestos safely. Visits were made to those authorities where the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) considered further clarification of arrangements was necessary to ensure they were complying with the legal requirements set out in the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006. HSE served enforcement notices on a small number of authorities to improve asbestos management standards.

HSE has also written to the chief executives of all 152 authorities to highlight key messages on managing asbestos, and to remind them that effective management of asbestos in schools is an ongoing requirement for authorities and other duty holders across all schools under their control.

This survey and inspection programme is the latest in a series of initiatives to ensure that local authorities and schools responsible for system buildings are managing the risks from asbestos. HSE will conduct a further survey and inspection initiative between October 2010 and March 2011 to check compliance with the regulations in a sample of schools that fall outside local authority control.

Schools: Cycling

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families will take steps to increase the number of schools in which children are able to take part in cycling as part of their physical education provision. [30591]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 14 December 2010]:* Cycling is a valuable sporting and physical activity for school pupils, and schools can offer it as part of the physical education curriculum or as an extra-curricular activity. The Department announced in the schools White Paper, 'The Importance of Teaching', our approach to ensuring that there is enough space in the school day to guarantee a truly rounded education for all.

We have also set out the direction of travel, and initial funding, for our new approach on school sports, including cycling. Schools will receive funding to allow PE teachers to further embed competitive sport in schools across the country and raise participation. Lastly, Sport England have announced that Bikeability will be supported for the rest of this Parliament, which will give the next generation of children the confidence and skills to ride more safely, increasing their physical activity and giving them an additional means of travel to and from sporting competitions.

Schools: Elections

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools were closed due to local elections in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [29478]

Mr Gibb: We do not collect this information. Returning Officers have the right, in law, to select schools as polling stations. Decisions as to whether or not a school closes for polling are within the discretion of the head teacher. Decisions will usually depend on what arrangements can be made for voting to take place separately from the rest of the school premises.

Schools: Finance

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects his Department's capital review team to report on its proposals for school funding in Ealing Central and Acton constituency. [31062]

Mr Gibb: The capital review team is now working on its final report, which will be presented to Ministers in January 2011.

Schools: Health Education

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will issue guidance to schools on teaching positive bone health messages in personal, social, health and economic education lessons. [31665]

Mr Gibb: The current Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programmes of study provide teachers with a framework for teaching. Schools have the flexibility to design their curriculum and tailor their provision to suit the needs of their pupils and can choose to teach about positive bone health as part of PSHE education. Pupils also learn about bones in the science curriculum; and that taking exercise and eating the right types and amounts of food help humans to keep healthy; and that conception, growth, development, behaviour and health can be affected by diet, drugs and disease.

In the Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", published on 24 November, we announced our intention to conduct an internal review of PSHE education. We want to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching by retaining the flexibility of teachers to use their professional judgment in what they teach, taking account of the needs of their pupils and the views of parents. As part of the review, we will consider what guidance to issue to support schools in providing high quality PSHE.

Schools: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children resident in *(a)* the London borough of Newham and *(b)* West Ham constituency attend a school outside the borough. [31587]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is given in the following table.

Number of pupils[1, 2] resident in Newham who attend a school maintained by another local authority, 2010

	Number of resident pupils		Number of resident pupils who attend schools outside Newham			
			Primary[2]		Secondary	
	Primary[2]	Secondary[3]	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Newham	27,562	17,914	687	2.5	1,413	7.9
West Ham	13,217	8,937	349	2.6	836	9.4

[1] Includes: Solely registered and main registration of dually registered pupils in National Curriculum Year Groups Reception to Year 11. Excludes pupils reported to be boarders.
[2] Includes pupils attending: maintained primary schools, maintained secondary schools, middle schools as deemed; secondary includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.
Source:
School Census

Schools: Personnel

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of individuals of each gender working as school support staff in *(a)* maintained schools and *(b)* non-maintained schools. [32869]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education (DfE) has not routinely collected data in relation to the gender of school support staff. From March 2011, information on the characteristics, including gender, of all school support staff who are employed in the publicly funded sector will become available within the Department for Education's new annual School Workforce Census. In this context, 'publicly funded sector' means: local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools; Pupil Referral Units; Academies; City Technology Colleges and other non-school education. DfE does not collect information on the gender of school support staff from schools outside the publicly funded sector and currently has no plans to do so.

Schools: Repairs and Maintenance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools he expects to be refurbished in the next five years; and how many such schools he expects to have *(a)* major refurbishments and *(b)* essential repairs. [29602]

Mr Gibb: Major refurbishment projects in schools are normally funded through capital funding. Essential repairs to school buildings can be funded by either capital or revenue funding. On 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 949-65, the Chancellor announced the Department for Education's spending review (SR) settlement for four years commencing April 2011. This included £15.8 billion of capital spending.

The Secretary of State for Education has announced a review of all areas of the Department's capital spending and the outcome of the review, due early in the new year, will inform how the SR settlement should be prioritised. Our priorities are the basic need for pupil places and dilapidation.

Capital allocations for the first year of the SR (2011-12) were announced with the Secretary of State's written ministerial statement on the Schools Financial Settlement on 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 65-70WS.

Schools: Rural Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the implication for schools in rural areas of the proposals in the Education White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [32113]

Mr Gibb: Rural schools are represented in the stakeholder groups with which the Department for Education consults on schools policy development and delivery, namely the Secondary Heads Reference Group, the Primary Heads Reference Group and the Bureaucracy Reduction Group. Discussions with stakeholder groups are ongoing on the implications of the White Paper for rural schools.

The Department for Education fulfilled its statutory obligations by publishing full economic and equality impact assessments alongside the Schools White Paper. It did not complete a separate formal assessment of its effect on rural areas. Officials are considering the impact of individual policies on rural schools in the light of feedback from stakeholders.

Schools: Sports

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the level of participation of pupils in competitive activity between schools; and if he will make a statement. [27410]

Tim Loughton: As set out in the Government's recent White Paper, 'The Importance of Teaching', physical education and competitive sport in schools are important issues for the coalition Government. The Department for Education is working closely with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to develop a model to assist an Olympic-style approach to school sport. This will aim for high levels of pupil participation; competition is a way of ensuring breadth, so that all students can be involved, not just the highest performing students.

Science: Education

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to improve the quality of science and mathematics teaching. [31727]

Mr Gibb: The Schools White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' sets out the Government's intention to provide support to increase the number of specialist science and mathematics teachers and to improve the skills of existing teachers. This will include encouraging and supporting primary schools to develop specialist mathematics teachers and a number of changes to get more good people into teaching, such as expanding Teach First and readjusting incentives for graduates. We will also review the National Curriculum and 14-19 qualifications to ensure that children gain the knowledge they need in maths and science, in order to progress and develop their understanding and provide them with the solid foundation to progress on to further study in these and related subjects at a higher level if they so wish.

Secondary Education: Finance

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department plans to initiate the process announced in the comprehensive spending review of allowing secondary schools to bid towards capital spending schemes. [27330]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State announced allocations of capital for schools in 2011-12 in a written ministerial statement on 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 65-70WS. That capital was allocated without the need for any bidding.

Ministers aim to announce as soon as possible our decisions on the spending of the DFE capital element of the spending review settlement for 2012-13 to 2014-15. The decisions will embody the Government's response to the capital review led by Sebastian James. The review team is to report to Ministers shortly.

Secondary Education: Pupil Numbers

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils attended secondary schools in which there were over *(a)* 1,000, *(b)* 1,500 and *(c)* 2,000 pupils in 2010. [32202]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the following table.

State-funded secondary schools[1] [2]: Number of schools by size[3] as at January 2010—In England

	State-funded secondary schools[1] [2]		
	Number of schools	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils[4]*
Schools of size[5]:			
Over 1,000 pupils	1,487	1,959,790	60.3
Over 1,500 pupils	303	522,010	16.1
Over 2,000 pupils	30	65,140	2.0
All schools	3,333	3,252,140	100.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Based on a headcount of solely registered pupils.

[4] The number of pupils attending schools of this size expressed as a percentage of pupils at all schools.

[5] Pupils included in schools with over 1,500 pupils are also included in schools with more than 1,000 pupils and so on.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Secondary Education: Standards

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Chesterfield of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 628, on secondary school standards, if he will estimate the change in the level of resources schools will allocate to school sport as a result of the removal of the ring fence on funding provided for sports; and if he will make a statement. [27462]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 29 November 2010]*: The largest item of school spending on sport has been, and will continue to be, the salaries of teachers who teach the National Curriculum programmes of study for physical education for all pupils aged five to 16. This will include virtually all primary classroom teachers, as well as the specialist PE teachers in secondary schools. These costs are already met from the dedicated schools grant (DSG).

The Department has not estimated total spending from DSG on teachers who teach PE, but we do not expect it to change, as PE will remain statutory for all age groups within the National Curriculum.

It is for school leaders to decide what additional resources they will provide for school sport from their (enhanced) school budgets from April 2012. The Department does not require schools to allocate specific levels of funding for PE and sport, or for any other subject. The Department has protected school budgets at a time when cutting the budget deficit is an urgent national priority.

Around £120 million a year of the previous Government's PE and Sport Strategy was given directly to schools and ring-fenced for PE and sport. The Secretary of State announced in December 2010 the direction of travel, and initial funding, for the coalition Government's new approach on school sports.

Schools will receive funding to allow PE teachers to embed competitive sport in schools across the country and raise participation. Every secondary school will receive funding up to the end of the academic year in 2013 to pay for one day a week of a PE teacher's time to be spent out of the classroom, encouraging greater take-up of competitive sport in primary schools, and securing a fixture network for schools to increase the amount of intra- and inter-school competition. The detail of the time-limited funding announced is:

> The Department will pay school sport partnerships for the full school year to the end of the summer term 2011 at a cost for the final term of £47 million from our 2010-11 budget. This will ensure the partnerships and their service can continue until the end of this academic year.
>
> A further £65 million from the Department's spending review settlement will be paid to enable every secondary school to release one PE teacher for a day a week in the school years 2011/12 and 2012/13. This will ensure all the benefits of the current system are fully embedded.

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consultation his Department is undertaking on the future level of funding for sixth forms at maintained schools. [28611]

Mr Gibb: We have no plans to consult on the future level of funding for sixth forms at maintained schools as this will be determined by the spending review and subsequent allocation process. As previously announced, funding for all 16-18 providers of education and training will be based on lagged funding from 2011/12. The Young People's Learning Agency published the details of the settlement on 20 December in its 16-19 Funding Statement. Allocations to individual institutions for the 2011/12 academic year will be made by the end of March 2011.

Specialist Schools: Finance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department plans to provide to local authorities on the allocation of grants for specialist schools. [25536]

Mr Gibb: Funding for specialist schools has been rolled into the dedicated schools grant (DSG) from 2011-12. Within the enlarged DSG, each local authority has been allocated the same per pupil amount for specialist schools as in 2010-11. To help minimise funding turbulence for schools, local authorities, in consultation with their schools forum, will be able to take account of the previous level of this funding in each school when making their 2011-12 allocations. The minimum funding guarantee of minus 1.5% will further help to minimise funding changes for specialist schools.

Teachers: Sick Leave

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to reduce the number of days lost among staff in schools as a result of headaches and migraines. [31484]

Mr Gibb: Responsibility for the health and wellbeing of staff in schools is primarily a matter for local employers. Accordingly school governing bodies and local authorities need to ensure that they have in place appropriate mechanisms to identify and address the causes of sickness absence and are providing the right support to individuals to guard against the loss of staff working days where this is possible.

Teachers: Training

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect of the new funding arrangements for schools on Training and Development Agency-funded initial teacher training provision for school teachers. [30959]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* On 13 December, the Government announced the school funding settlement for 2011-12, including the pupil premium. The arrangements for funding schools in 2011-12 are very similar to previous years, and neither they nor the pupil premium have implications for Training and Development Agency for Schools-funded initial teacher training provision. We will publish for consultation a discussion document in early 2011 on our detailed proposals for TDA-funded initial teacher training.

Vocational Education: Finance

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department has allocated to schools for vocational learning programmes in the comprehensive spending review period. [30613]

Mr Gibb: The general funding Government allocate to schools, including for school sixth forms, for the provision of education is used by schools in accordance with their local needs. Schools are free to use their funding allocation for their own education provision, which can include vocational education for their pupils.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether funding allocated to local education authorities for vocational learning programmes in schools is ring-fenced. [30614]

Mr Gibb: The general funding Government allocate to schools for the provision of education is used by schools in accordance with their local needs. Schools are free to use their funding allocation for their own education provision, which can include vocational education for their pupils.

In 2010-11, the following elements of funding allocated to local authorities for vocational education programmes in schools are ring fenced.

The diploma formula grant is paid to local areas at an average rate of £1,000 per pupil for pre-16 pupils to cover the additional costs of teaching diplomas that could not be met through mainstream funding.

The local delivery support grant is used to support local areas with the implementation of the diploma and other aspects of what was formerly known as the 14-19 programme. The grant is paid on the basis of the number of young people in the area and the number of approvals for new unique subjects in each local authority.

Vocational Education: Hexham

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has received recent representations on the inclusion of a vocational component in the curriculum for 14 year olds in school in West Northumberland. [30048]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State has asked Professor Alison Wolf to carry out a review of vocational education, looking at its organisation, funding, and target audience, and the principles that should underpin the content, structure and teaching methods.

Professor Wolf has completed a public call for evidence, which promoted a large number of submissions covering a wide range of issues. Professor Wolf will report in spring 2011.

Warrington Collegiate: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding for each pupil aged between 16 and 19 will be available to Warrington Collegiate in each of the next four financial years. [28052]

Mr Gibb: Funding allocations for the 2011/12 academic year for schools and colleges, such as Warrington Collegiate, will be made by the end of March 2011. Funding allocations for the remaining academic years of the spending review will be announced before the end of the preceding financial year.

Young People: Cycling

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of schools participating in Go Ride schemes; and if he will make a statement. [29392]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 8 December 2010]:* According to the latest figures from British Cycling, April 2009 to March 2010, 245 schools participated in curricular and extra curricular activities with go ride coaches. These schools typically engaged in six to 10 sessions.

Youth Sport Trust

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department plan to meet the Youth Sport Trust Young Ambassadors when they deliver their petition against changes in his Department's expenditure; [27136]

(2) whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had recent meetings with the Youth Sport Trust Young Ambassadors; and if he will make a statement. [27137]

(3) whether he plans to meet Youth Sport Trust young ambassadors when they deliver their petition against changes in the expenditure of his Department; [27405]

(4) whether he plans to meet the Youth Sport Trust Young Ambassadors when they deliver their petition against proposed changes in his Department's expenditure on 7 December 2010; [28531]

(5) whether the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families has met any of the Youth Sport Trust Young Ambassadors since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [28918]

Tim Loughton *[holding answers 29 November 2010 and 3 December 2010]:* The Young Ambassadors is a scheme funded jointly by the Department for Education and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and developed and run by the Youth Sport Trust, with additional help from private sector sponsors. It harnesses the passion of young people for competitive sports and uses this to get more young people involved. The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has recognised the Young Ambassadors as part of its "Inspire" programme. I was very pleased to meet representatives of the Young Ambassadors on 7 December and recognise their energy, commitment, and the valuable contribution they make. I have offered a follow up meeting with a larger group of Young Ambassadors. The Department for Education intends to continue to fund the scheme through to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and is discussing with the Youth Sport Trust options to expand the scheme to allow every secondary school to have a young ambassador and also to include some primary schools.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 20 January 2011

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on his proposal not to pay the mobility component of disability living allowance to young people in residential care; and if he will make a statement. [35933]

Maria Miller: We have received a number of representations on the withdrawal of the mobility component of disability allowance for people in residential care, in the form of parliamentary questions and correspondence. There was also an adjournment debate on the subject on 30 November 2010.

We have encouraged disabled people and their representatives to put forward their views on this proposal as part of the wider DLA reform consultation document, which was published on 6 December 2010 and will finish on 14 February 2011.

Housing Benefit: Bromsgrove

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1079W, on housing benefit: Worcestershire, how many people in Bromsgrove were in receipt of housing benefit of more than £400 per week in the latest period for which figures are available. [34321]

Steve Webb: As at September 2010, there were no claimants receiving more than £400 per week in housing benefit in Bromsgrove.

Multiple Occupation: Ayrshire and Arran

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of multi-occupancy lets of each type of tenure in North Ayrshire and Arran constituency. [30509]

Steve Webb: This information is not available.

Pensions

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimates he has made of the average size of an individual's pension pot. [34649]

Steve Webb: Estimates of median pension wealth held in defined contribution (DC) occupational pensions by an employee who is a member and contributing to the scheme in 2006-08, by age:

£

Age	*Median*[1]	*Mean*[1]
16-24	1,300	2,800
25-34	4,000	15,300
35-44	7,000	22,600
45-54	10,000	35,900
55-64	12,000	46,000
For all aged 16 and above	6,500	26,200

[1] Excludes those with zero pension wealth.

Notes:

1. We interpreted the question's mention of pension pots as a reference to DC pension wealth and therefore provided figures in that context. The estimates quoted reflect DC pension wealth held by employees who are currently contributing to DC occupational pension schemes. These estimates may include DC pension wealth held in more than one pot. They exclude those individuals with zero pension wealth.
2. We provide figures for both mean and median DC occupational pension wealth. The median may provide a better measure compared to the mean since the distribution of private pension wealth can be skewed by a small number of very large amounts of wealth at the top of the distribution.
3. The Wealth and Assets survey (WAS) is a large scale nationally representative longitudinal survey of over 30,000 private households in Great Britain that provides comprehensive information on people's assets and net wealth.
4. The first wave was conducted from July 2006 to June 2008. It collected detailed information on financial and non-financial assets, wealth components such as savings, pensions, property, mortgages and debt as well as people's attitudes and savings behaviour over time.
5. A copy of the "Wealth in Great Britain 2006/08" using the Wealth and Assets data is available at the following web link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/wealth-assets-2006-2008/Wealth_in_GB_2006_2008.pdf

Source:

Wealth and Assets Survey 2006/08

Sky Lanterns: Safety

Rebecca Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* fire and *(b)* public health risks of sky lanterns; and if he will make a statement. [34924]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

This Department and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have had several meetings to discuss the safety issues of sky lanterns. Reports on behalf of Norfolk Trading Standards by the Health and Safety Laboratory and a report by the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority both assessed that high quality lanterns when used according to instructions were generally safe in relation to fire safety. BIS and DEFRA continue to work with Trading Standards and other interested parties to gather evidence and monitor the situation.

Tax Credit

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the potential effects on employment levels of the planned increase in the tax credit taper rate. [33395]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) was formed in May 2010 to make an independent assessment of the public finances and the economy. On 29 November 2010, the OBR released the official forecast for total employment and general Government employment. The forecast includes the impacts of quantifiable tax and expenditure measures that were announced at the time of the June Budget.

The change to the tax credits taper rate should be considered alongside changes in the personal allowance. The personal allowance for under 65s will be increased by £1,000 to £7,475 in 2011-12. This will remove 880,000 low income tax payers from tax altogether and 23 million taxpayers will benefit by up to £170 each per year.

Work Capability Assessment

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will defer implementation of the Employment and Support Allowance (Limited Capability for Work and Limited Capability for Work-Related Activity) Amendment Regulations 2011 until he has received recommendations from *(a)* Mind, *(b)* Mencap and *(c)* the National Autistic Society on the mental, intellectual and cognitive descriptors for the work capability assessment. [34890]

Chris Grayling: We believe that the principles of the work capability assessment (WCA) are right, but that the system which we inherited contained some flaws that risked undermining its effectiveness. We have therefore moved swiftly to put those right.

We welcome the first independent review of the WCA, led by Professor Malcolm Harrington. We are committed to taking forward the review's recommendations so that we can make the system fairer and more effective. The Government response to Professor Harrington's review sets out how and when we will implement the recommendations of the review, the majority of which will be in place in time for the national roll-out of the incapacity benefits reassessment programme.

We are grateful to Professor Harrington who has agreed to take forward the next annual review of the WCA. He will start work immediately on the programme of work he has identified, to look in detail at the descriptors for mental health and other fluctuating conditions. We look forward to receiving the results of this work. We are committed to a process of ongoing review and improvement of the WCA and believe that it would be inappropriate to delay implementation of other pertinent recommendations while we await additional recommendations.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of implementation of the Employment and Support Allowance (Limited Capability for Work and Limited Capability for Work-Related Activity) Amendment Regulations 2011. [34891]

Maria Miller: An impact assessment for these regulations, including an assessment of the cost to the Exchequer, will be published when the regulations are laid.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Westminster Abbey: Fees and Charges

Mr Offord: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, if the Church Commission will take steps to assess the affordability of the admission charge to visit Westminster Abbey in comparison to other attractions in London. [35000]

Tony Baldry: As a Royal Peculiar Westminster Abbey does not come under jurisdiction of the Church Commissioners. The hon. Member may therefore wish to direct his query about the affordability of admission charges to the Receiver General of Westminster Abbey.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

IPSA: Liaison Group

8. **Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Leader of the House what progress has been made on the creation of a liaison group between hon. Members and the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. [34736]

Sir George Young: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire (Simon Hart) today:

> My hon. Friend will have heard Mr Speaker's statement yesterday on this matter. I welcome this initiative and understand that the Liaison Group will meet soon.

Petitions

9. **Anne Marie Morris:** To ask the Leader of the House what recent progress he has made on the Government's plans to link petitions to debates in the House. [34737]

Sir George Young: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Deputy Leader of the House today to my hon. Friend the Member for Rossendale and Darwen (Jake Berry):

> The Government will move the online petition system to the DirectGov portal soon, certainly before the summer.
>
> Officials are currently working on an effective verification system to ensure that petitions becomes a useful tool for engaging with Government, rather than the gimmicky system of the previous Government's petition site.

Adjournment Debates

Paul Uppal: To ask the Leader of the House what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the format of the pre-adjournment debate held on 21 December 2010. [34734]

Sir George Young: I welcome the decision by the Committee to retain the pre-recess Adjournment debate, and the innovative format which allowed 45 hon. Members to contribute, almost twice as many as the previous year's debate.

I am keen to work closely with the Backbench Business Committee and the Procedure Committee on innovations to the working of the House.

Private Members' Bills

Mr Bone: To ask the Leader of the House if he will make provision for sitting days for the consideration of Private Members' Bills in the 2010-11 session beyond the number set out in Standing Orders commensurate with the expected length of the session. [34843]

Sir George Young: I will bring forward proposals for consideration by the House in due course. Extra provision should be made for the consideration of Private Members' Bills in light of the length of the session.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Domestic Violence

Lyn Brown: To ask the Attorney-General what recent discussions he has had with the Director of Public Prosecutions on the Crown Prosecution Service's performance in the prosecution of cases involving allegations of domestic violence. [35197]

The Attorney-General: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 693-94, to the oral questions from the hon. Members for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger) and for Luton South (Gavin Shuker).

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what information she holds on the number of sub-contracted staff servicing the Government Equalities Office who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34807]

Lynne Featherstone: All sub-contracted staff servicing the Government Equalities Office were paid at a rate equal to or above the London living wage.

WALES

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on how many occasions her Department has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings her Department was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions her Department has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31911]

Mr David Jones: None.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture: Research

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to agricultural research and development in the last five years; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in each of the next four financial years. [34430]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided the following centrally funded expenditure for agricultural research and bilateral expenditure for agricultural development in the last five financial years.

£ million

	Agricultural research	*Agricultural development*
2005-06	35.6	99.3
2006-07	35.3	118.9
2007-08	38.3	136.9
2008-09	42.2	180.5
2009-10	65.1	171.4

Decisions have not been finalised on future funding to agricultural research. Parliament will be notified once this has been agreed. Support for agricultural development from our bilateral programme will be decided upon the conclusion of the ongoing bilateral and multilateral aid reviews.

Burma: Asylum

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with non-governmental organisations working on the Thai-Burmese border on *(a)* numbers and *(b)* treatment of Burmese refugees; and if he will make a statement. [34835]

Mr Duncan: UK Government officials in Bangkok are in close contact with the Thailand Burma Border Consortium and other NGOs working on the Thai-Burma border. We are concerned by reports that thousands of new refugees have crossed the Thai-Burma border since November to escape the fighting in east Burma, and reports that some of these have been encouraged to return to Burma by the Thai authorities. The British ambassador to Thailand and Department for International Development (DFID) officials visited the Thai side of the border on 17 January 2011. They raised these concerns with the local military and civilian authorities, and pressed them to treat all those who have crossed into Thailand seeking refuge in accordance with international law and international standards.

DFID is providing about £1.6 million this financial year for food, housing, other supplies and improved access to legal assistance for the 146,000 Burmese refugees living in camps in Thailand.

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34596]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a formal policy on the space provided per employee. DFID provides a working environment which values and nurtures a diverse work force and allows staff to work a range of alternative working patterns. According to the latest benchmarking report produced by the Government Property Unit, in 2009-10 DFID's UK estate was occupied at 15.2 square metres per person and there were 0.9 workstations per person.

In order to use our UK estate more efficiently, we are currently planning the reorganisation of our London headquarters. Staff will work at 'hot desks' provided at a ratio of 7 desks per 10 staff. This reorganisation should result in an occupancy level in this building of around 11.4 square metres per person.

Food Aid

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on levels of global food production. [34796]

Mr Duncan: Global food production will need to increase in order to feed an extra two billion people by 2050. This will be hugely challenging for the global food system. The Department for International Development (DFID) is helping address that challenge in a range of ways, such as funding research into improved agriculture technologies; working with other G20 countries to reduce the vulnerability of poor people to food price volatility; and supporting the governments of food insecure countries such as Bangladesh and Ethiopia to improve the nutritional status of women and girls.

Sudan: Referendums

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of humanitarian issues arising from large-scale population movements following the recent referendum in Sudan. [34556]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: According to reporting by the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the total number of returnees from the north to the south of Sudan over the last 11 weeks has been 182,446. A further 21,186 are awaiting transportation south from Khartoum, with a current average rate of return of 1,500 to 2,000 people per week. There have been instances of harassment of convoys, but the two parties agreed a framework to provide greater security along key routes on 17 January 2011. The UN will monitor compliance.

People returning home are often households headed by women, with several children, as male breadwinners remain in Khartoum for the time being. Some transit camps have been congested by delays in onward transportation, but this situation is easing. Needs in these camps include clean water, food, shelter, and addressing issues such as the separation of families, especially children from parents.

On return, southerners are entitled to assistance packages of food, seeds, tools and other essential items for three months. The UK is working with the Government of Southern Sudan, the UN and other partners to start to address the longer term integration and livelihoods needs of the returnees.

SCOTLAND

Students: Fees and charges

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Barnett formula. [35082]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I have regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a range of issues. The UK Government recognise that concerns have been expressed about the current system of devolution funding whereby changes to the block grant are calculated by the Barnett formula, but the UK Government's priority is to reduce the deficit and they do not have any plans to change arrangements before the stabilisation of the public finances.

TRANSPORT

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Accidents

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many traffic accidents have been recorded at the Dartford crossing in each of the last eight years. [35026]

Mike Penning: Accidents are recorded using Stats 19 (Police) Data and includes all collisions where injuries are reported. Using validated Stats 19 Data, the recorded collisions for the A282 (which includes the Dartford Crossing) for the last eight years is:

	Number
2002	95
2003	74
2004	81
2005	79
2006	66
2007	73
2008	63
2009	66

Validated and published Stats 19 Data are currently only available up to 2009.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the additional toll revenues accruing at the Dartford Crossing attributable to the 2012 Olympics. [34828]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has made no estimates of additional road user charge receipts at the Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing during the 2012 Olympic Games.

Significant increases in traffic volumes at this crossing are not anticipated as the transport strategy for the 2012 Games promotes the use of public transport.

The Highways Agency is working closely with the Olympic Delivery Authority on the delivery of that strategy. The plans for spectator transport include the provision of park and ride sites either side of the crossing (that at Bluewater providing a shuttle to the nearby Javelin rail shuttle from Ebbsfleet station).

The crossing forms part of the 'alternative' section of the Olympic Route Network—that is routes which will used by vehicles transporting athletes, officials, media etc. in the event that the main core and venue routes (e.g. the A13) are not available for any reason. HA and ODA will be considering proposals to assist these movements through the crossing over the coming months.

Freight Facilities Grant: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had recent discussions with the Scottish Executive on the abolition of the Freight Facilities Grants scheme from March 2011. [33599]

Mike Penning: No recent discussions have taken place with the Scottish Executive on its abolition of the Freight Facilities Grant in Scotland from March 2011. In Scotland this is the responsibility of the Scottish Government.

Large Goods Vehicles: Excise Duties

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 348W, on large goods vehicles: excise duties, what progress has been made on the introduction of HGV road user charging; and by what date he expects a scheme to be operational. [34941]

Mike Penning: As set out in the Department for Transport business plan 2011-15, we intend to introduce primary legislation for HGV road user charging in May 2012, with the proposed scheme coming into operation in April 2014. Officials are currently developing the details of an effective charging scheme which represents value for money and are preparing draft legislation. We expect to consult formally later this year.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to bring forward proposals to register commercial vehicle trailers for the purposes of reducing the incidence of theft or misuse of such trailers. [34830]

Mike Penning: The Government have no plans to register commercial vehicle trailers.

Network Rail: Pay

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds about the benefits the board members and senior management of Network Rail receive in addition to basic salary or fees. [34129]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 17 January 2011]:* Network Rail is a private sector company. Information about the remuneration of its board members and senior management is set out in Network Rail's annual reports and accounts, which are available on the company's website:

www.networkrail.co.uk

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will bring forward proposals to bring the setting of *(a)* the salary of the acting chief executive of Network Rail and *(b)* the fees of the current Chairman of Network Rail within his responsibility; [34130]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to bring the award of free travel to *(a)* current employees, *(b)* former employees and *(c)* board members of Network Rail within his responsibility; [34131]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to place the benefits received by the *(a)* executive board members, *(b)* non-executive board members, *(c)* senior management, *(d)* acting chief executive and *(e)* chairman of Network Rail within his responsibility. [34132]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 17 January 2011]:* Network Rail is a private sector company. Decisions on the remuneration of its staff are matters for the company, in which the Government have no powers to intervene.

Under a condition of its network licence Network Rail is required to maintain a management incentive plan, which is used to determine the remuneration of the company's senior executives. This must be submitted to the independent Office of Rail Regulation for approval or amendment.

The Government welcomed the announcement that Network Rail has suspended its management incentive plan pending a joint review with the Office of Rail Regulation. This review must be fundamental and far-reaching. Any future incentive system should be more transparent and based on the principle that bonuses are not an automatic right, but should focus on rewarding exceptional long-term performance.

Railways: Construction

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to publish the consultation criteria for High Speed Two. [34346]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* I have previously made clear that the forthcoming consultation will cover both the Government's overall strategy for high speed rail and the line of route for the initial phase, between London and the west midlands. The consultation questions will be published at the launch of the consultation.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department plans to make an assessment of economic and environmental benefits to the UK of the extension of the high speed rail network into Scotland. [34432]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Government support a truly national high speed rail network, but recognise that this will need to be delivered in phases. While the development of high speed rail lines in Scotland are a matter for the Scottish Government we are happy to work with it on its ambitions. In its report of December 2009, HS2 Ltd assessed several options for networks incorporating links to Scotland. Its conclusions are set out in chapter 6 of this report.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to begin consideration of route options for the extension of the high speed rail network north of Birmingham. [34433]

Mr Philip Hammond: High Speed Two Ltd is currently developing route proposals for the legs from Birmingham to Leeds and Manchester and will provide advice to me by the end of the year.

Railways: Disability

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the *(a)* adequacy of and *(b)* consistency in support available to disabled rail passengers across the rail network. [34413]

Norman Baker: Assessment of the adequacy and consistency of services provided to rail passengers is primarily a matter for Passenger Focus and the Office of Rail Regulation. However, we expect all rail service providers to meet their duties under the Equality Act 2010, and the commitments in their Disabled People's Protection Policy, and to make all reasonable endeavours to meet the needs of their passengers.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the support available to disabled rail passengers who choose to travel at short notice. [34414]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not carried out an assessment of the support available to disabled rail passengers who choose to travel at short notice. However, we expect all rail operators to meet the commitments in their Disabled People's Protection Policy, as well as their duties under the Equality Act 2010, and to make all reasonable endeavours to meet the needs of their disabled passengers.

We recognise that rail operators are better able to plan their resources to meet passengers needs if assistance is booked in advance using the Assisted Passenger Reservation System. The Department for Transport has agreed to provide funding to the Association of Train Operators to improve the arrangements in place for assistance bookings. We expect trials of the new system to start during 2011.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the findings of the Passenger Focus report on the Assisted Passenger Reservation System. [34415]

Norman Baker: We note the findings of the report with interest. Overall, it reflects well on the efforts of front line rail staff, with overall customer satisfaction having increased from 69% 71% since the last survey in 2008. However it also shows that the assistance booked matched the assistance actually provided in just 47% of cases and therefore demonstrates that the current Assisted Passenger Reservation System needs to improve.

That is why the Department for Transport has agreed to provide funding to the Association of Train Operating Companies to put in place a new system for assistance bookings. We expect trials of the new system to start during 2011.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effect on support for disabled rail passengers of the ending of the Disabled Persons Advisory Committee. [34416]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport's proposals have been through a preliminary impact assessment process, including an equalities impact assessment. Full impact assessment documents will be published as part of the consultation process in the coming months.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will undertake an equality impact assessment of the effects on *(a)* disabled rail passengers and *(b)* other disabled users of transport services of the abolition of the Disabled Persons Advisory Committee. [34417]

Norman Baker: Yes. Full impact assessment documents will be published as part of the consultation process in the coming months.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the adequacy of training offered to rail staff to support disabled passengers. [34472]

Norman Baker: The training of rail staff is a matter for train operators: not the Department for Transport. However, the Department does require that all staff receive relevant disability awareness training as part of an operator's Disabled People's Protection Policy, which is a condition of their operating licence.

Railways: Severe Weather

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to revise his Department's guidance to local authorities on transport infrastructure in the light of the recent severe weather conditions; and if he will make a statement. [32993]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State for Transport, with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, wrote on 12 November 2010 to the leaders of all English local authorities. This letter advised on the measures the Government have taken to implement the recommendations following David Quarmby's independent review on winter resilience, published in October 2010, and drew attention to the recommendations in the review panel's report which were addressed to local authorities to take forward.

I wrote to leaders of all local highway authorities in England on 15 December 2010 and emphasised the importance of working together to keep our transport network moving given the early onset of severe weather this winter.

I reminded them of the guidance produced by the Department with the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) on the range of actions that can be taken with regards to winter service and measures to ensure that salt stocks last longer.

On 24 December, officials from the Department for Transport wrote to the chief executives of all local highway authorities highlighting the conclusions and recommendations of David Quarmby's further independent audit published on 21 December 2010. This audit looked at how well the transport system coped following the extreme weather which occurred between 24 November and 9 December last year.

This letter also attached further technical guidance in relation to spread rates for salt, as recommended by David Quarmby. It also stressed the importance of local authorities implementing the recommendations from David Quarmby's October report and December audit, including reviewing their own winter service plans and operations accordingly against best practice.

My Department will continue to work throughout the year with the local government sector to ensure that we continue to further improve resilience for future winters. This may include updating and providing further guidance if required.

Rescue Services

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents required intervention from a HM Coastguard station in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [33117]

Mike Penning: Coastguard record keeping continues to be affected by industrial action short of a strike. This means that incident records may not be completely accurate and it is not possible to give a figure for the number of incidents that were handled in 2008-09.

In 2009-10, just over 21,000 incidents were recorded within the UK search and rescue region.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 133-4WS, on coastguard services (modernisation), what the latest technologies referred to are; and how the proposed new system will operate. [34344]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 18 January 2011]*: The technologies referred to in the proposals for the modernisation of HM Coastguard are the latest version of existing technology currently installed in the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres. The proposals seek to fully exploit functionality, such as geographic information systems and mapping, that is currently not used by HM Coastguard but is already used elsewhere by other emergency services.

This technology covers functions such as incident command and control, information management, search planning, vessel traffic monitoring as well as radio and telephone communications.

Chapter 3 of the consultation document 'Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21 Century', published on 16 December 2010, outlines how the proposed new nationally networked system will operate.

Copies of the consultation have been placed in the Libraries of the House and are available on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website at:

www.mcga.gov.uk

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he made of the likely effects of the proposed coastguard station closures announced on 16 December 2010. [34496]

Mike Penning: The proposals for the selection of stations to remain open has been undertaken to identify the most suitable locations to provide the best service to the seafarer, coastal communities and provide value for money. This is outlined on pages 22 and 23 in the consultation document "Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century".

Copies of the consultation have been placed in the Libraries of the House and are available on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website:

www.mcga.gov.uk

Roads: Safety Barriers

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has undertaken on the cost-effectiveness of concrete central reservation barriers compared with metal barriers; and if he will make a statement. [33975]

Mike Penning: A whole life cost study was carried out by the Highways Agency in 2004. The report, entitled "Whole Life Cost Analysis for Median Safety Barriers", led to the decision by the Highways Agency to introduce the policy for concrete barriers in the central reserve on motorways. The policy was implemented by an Interim Advice Note IAN 60/05 in January 2005. This policy was taken forward as a full standard in TD 19/06, the Requirements for Road Restraint Systems, in April 2007 and included in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. I am placing copies of these documents in the Libraries of the House.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will allocate additional funding to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government for repair of pot holes attributable to recent severe snowfalls. [34322]

Norman Baker: The Government have already committed to providing over £3 billion of capital to local authorities in England for road maintenance over the next four years, reflecting the economic and social importance of local roads.

The funding of road maintenance in Wales is a devolved matter and therefore the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government. The Welsh Assembly Government receive funding through a block grant from HM Treasury and are able to determine the allocation of public expenditure between the services under their control.

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to the use of Heavy Rescue Partnership vehicles to keep major roads open during severe weather. [34831]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport has not given any consideration to the use of Heavy Rescue Partnership vehicles as the Highways Agency have their own National Vehicle Recovery Manager contract in place for the motorway network.

The Highways Agency's National Vehicle Recovery Manager Contract reflects the geographical Strategic Road Network (SRN) coverage of the Traffic Officer Service (TOS). All other parts of the SRN are covered by recovery contracts managed by the Police. On these roads, the Police use their own statutory powers and contracts to manage the recovery of vehicles.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Local Television

15. **Jake Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to promote the development of local television services. [34716]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: This week I published a Local Media Action Plan, inviting expressions of interest from organisations interested in bidding for a new network channel that will host local TV services. The plan also invites views from industry and the public that will help shape the commercial, technical and content model for local TV.

Tourism: North East England

16. **Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to support the development of the tourism industry in the North East; and if he will make a statement. [34717]

John Penrose: The Government will invest almost £130 million from 2011-12 to 2014-15 in promoting tourism across the country through VisitBritain and VisitEngland. The North East remains an important part of our tourism offer and its destinations will benefit from this effort.

Football Governance

18. **Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to bring forward proposals on football governance; and if he will make a statement. [34719]

Hugh Robertson: In line with the commitment in the Government's coalition agreement, I am in discussion with the football authorities on what more they can do to bring about further governance reform and a greater involvement for supporters in their local clubs. I hope to be able to set out the way forward in these areas by May.

I will be taking a close interest in the inquiry that the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee are conducting on this issue and look forward to responding to their recommendations in due course.

Participation in Sport: Young People

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on national sporting performance at elite level of levels of participation in sport among young people. [34718]

Hugh Robertson: National sporting performance at elite level is dependent upon the talent pathways that the national governing bodies of sport put in place. The Government are committed to working with governing bodies to improve talent pathways, particularly through the Whole Sport Plans introduced by Sport England.

Sport: CSR

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on his Department's levels of financial support for sport. [34703]

Hugh Robertson: In common with other Departments, this was a tough comprehensive spending review for the Department. However, as a result of the Government's changes to the national lottery, UK Sport had its funding confirmed for the remainder of the London 2012 cycle and a similar level of funding available for the start of the Rio cycle. Sport England, after a small fall in 2011-12, sees its funding rise by 14% over the spending review period.

British Sky Broadcasting

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) when he received the report from Ofcom on the regulatory issues connected with the takeover of BSkyB; [34438]

(2) whether he has had discussions with the Competition Commission on the procedure for referral of bids for the takeover of media companies; [34463]

(3) what meetings he has had with *(a)* employees, *(b)* directors and *(c)* executives of (i) BSkyB and (ii) News Corporation since his appointment; and what the (A) dates and (B) locations of such meetings were. [34466]

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with representatives of BSkyB and News Corporation on the proposed takeover of BSkyB by News Corporation; [34464]

(2) whether *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have scheduled meetings with representatives of BSkyB and News Corporation on the proposed takeover of BSkyB by News Corporation. [34465]

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to publish the Ofcom report on the takeover of BSkyB by News Corporation. [34397]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: On 31 December 2010 I received Ofcom's report on the public interest issues relating to the News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB. In taking my decision about whether to refer this proposed acquisition to the Competition Commission, I will take as much time as necessary to carefully consider all the relevant information so that I am able to come to a fully considered decision. In view of the commercial sensitivity of the process and the need to preserve legitimate confidentiality, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on every stage of the process. I will publish Ofcom's report with commercially sensitive information redacted. I have not taken a final decision about when to publish, but I have a duty to publish the report before or at the time of the announcement of my decision. I am committed to reaching my decision in a fair and even-handed way, and am satisfied that the decision-making process will ensure all concerns are properly considered.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many organisations and individuals responded to the Ofcom consultation on News Corporation and BSkyB; how many such responses were opposed to the News Corporation acquisition of BSkyB shares; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each response to the consultation. [34573]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I will publish Ofcom's report, with commercially sensitive and confidential information redacted, before or at the time of the announcement of my decision on whether to refer this proposed acquisition to the Competition Commission. Ofcom's published report will include a summary of the non-confidential representations.

Internet

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the number of households without access to the internet in rural communities in England over each of the next five years. [34200]

Mr Vaizey: The internet is accessible via dial-up, but Broadband Delivery UK estimate that 13% or 0.57 million households in England where the population is no greater than 10,000 people have a broadband connection capable of less than 0.5Mbps.

No estimate has been made of the rate of reduction up to 2015, but the Government are committed to bringing broadband access to all those without a basic level of connectivity by 2015.

British Sky Broadcasting

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he plans to have with News Corporation on its proposed takeover of BSkyB. [34704]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: In view of the commercial sensitivity of the process and the need to preserve legitimate confidentiality, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on every stage of the process. However, when I have made my decision I will publish full information about the process, including details of which organisations I met at which stages.

Olympic Games 2012

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential legacy for Newport of the London 2012 Olympics. [34711]

Hugh Robertson: Wales and the whole of the UK are already benefiting from the economic, sporting and cultural opportunities generated by the 2012 Games, with 490 schools and colleges in Wales already registered as part of the London 2012 education programme 'Get Set'.

In addition, 10 businesses registered in Wales have won work directly supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority and many other businesses based in Wales have secured contracts to supply goods or services within the London 2012 supply chain including two companies based in Newport, Rowecord Holdings and Premier Forest Products Ltd. I am sure that you would join me in congratulating these companies on securing London 2012 contracts.

Public Libraries

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on the future of public libraries; and if he will make a statement. [34844]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are committed champions of public libraries and their value, not just in encouraging reading, but as the hub of local communities. They are places which can be used by anyone in order to learn, read, access information or get online.

The Government continue to drive the improvement and development of public library services through the Future Libraries Programme. The programme was announced in July and is led by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and the Local Government Association. They will support over 30 authorities participating in the programme to explore options that will help them to deliver the front line services communities want and need more efficiently. Learning from the 10 pilot projects will be shared widely to support non-participating authorities to deliver their services more efficiently too.

We continue to monitor proposals about changes to library services being made by local authorities across England and we take our duty to superintend the delivery of services, including any reduction in programmes, very seriously.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Art Works

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many pieces of artwork his Department has moved since May 2010. [34302]

Robert Neill: The artwork on display in ministerial offices and in some communal areas of the Department is on loan from the Government Art Collection.

Since May 2010, 34 pieces of art have been returned to the Government Art Collection and 24 pieces have been installed. A list of the items installed was published on my Department's website on 14 September 2010.

Departmental Redundancy

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision was made for the cost of redundancies in his Department's Comprehensive Spending Review 2010 settlement letter. [34299]

Robert Neill: All pressures on Departments' budgets were taken into account as part of the spending review and settlements were allocated accordingly. The full costs of redundancies will be met from within DCLG's spending review resource departmental expenditure limit settlement.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in his Department have been made redundant since May 2010. [34530]

Robert Neill: Since May 2010 no staff in the Department for Communities and Local Government have been made compulsory redundant. There were no voluntary redundancies throughout this period although 12 staff took flexible early severance under a voluntary scheme.

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which senior Civil Service staff have left his Department since May 2010; and what *(a)* contractual and *(b)* non-contractual payments were made by his Department in each case. [34297]

Robert Neill: The number of senior civil service (SCS) staff who have left the Department from 1 May to 31 December 2010 is 13. Five contractual payments totalling £477,764 were made to leavers who left under DCLG's flexible early severance and approved early retirement schemes. No non-contractual payments were made. Actual amounts have not been included in this response as this constitutes personal information. The Government have recently reformed the Civil Service Compensation Scheme to set a cap on payments to high earners.

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34586]

Robert Neill: In 2009 the Department introduced flexible desking in Eland house to maximise space utilisation and facilitate the closure of Ashdown house (Victoria). The introduction of flexible desking, alongside other space efficiency measures, has meant that the average space per full time equivalent, based on the net internal area, is 9.6m^2.

Having achieved the Government Property Unit's 10m^2 space target for existing civil estate occupations, the Department's strategy moving forward is to achieve 8m^2 per full time equivalent in its HQ building.

The Department is committed to improving work/life balance. It values diversity and tries to accommodate different work patterns including the use of home working where operational/business constraints permit.

East London Tech City

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contribution his Department is making to the Prime Minister's initiative to create a Tech City in East London. [34562]

Robert Neill: My officials have facilitated the coming together of UK trade and industry with the Greater London Authority, Olympic Park Legacy Company, east London boroughs, private and academic partners now taking Tech City forward; and remain available to assist where required.

Housing Associations: Mergers

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what powers he has to oversee mergers of housing associations for the purposes of ensuring due diligence; [35064]

(2) what arrangements are in place to govern the voting of *(a)* chief executives and *(b)* finance directors of housing associations on the merger of housing associations; [35067]

(3) what reports he has received on recent incidences involving the proposed merger of two housing associations where the chief executive of one of the housing associations concerned has retired and received a redundancy settlement; and if he will investigate such incidences. [35086]

Andrew Stunell: As independent organisations, it is for individual housing associations to make decisions on mergers, subject to the requirements and consent of the regulator of social housing (the Tenant Services Authority), who will have regard to all matters of due diligence and good governance.

Housing: Construction

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria local authorities will be required to meet to receive the New Homes Bonus payments. [34412]

Grant Shapps: The New Homes Bonus will match fund the additional council tax raised for new homes and properties brought back into use, for the following six years with an enhancement for affordable homes.

The Government's proposed model for implementation can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus

A calculator has also been published alongside this which enables local authorities to estimate their grant.

A consultation on the mechanics of the scheme ended on 24 December 2010 and the final details and individual local authority allocations will be published in due course.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to ensure that the new homes bonus reflects the strategic priority for brownfield development before greenfield in Planning Policy Statement 3, Housing; and what consideration he has given to providing an additional incentive for supporting brownfield redevelopment. [R] [34855]

Grant Shapps: The new homes bonus will match fund the additional council tax raised for new homes and properties brought back into use, for the following six years with an enhancement for affordable homes.

The Government's proposed model for implementation can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus

A consultation on the mechanics of the scheme closed on 24 December 2010 and final details will be published in due course.

The new homes bonus does not change planning policy. However, we do believe it will promote more sustainable, locally-led development than the failed and unpopular regime of regional strategies.

The consultation also proposes that the bonus rewards getting long-term empty homes back into productive use.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether National Park Authorities will be eligible to receive the new homes bonus. [34889]

Grant Shapps: The new homes bonus will match fund the additional council tax raised for new homes and properties brought back into use, for the following six years with an enhancement for affordable homes.

The Government's proposed model for implementation can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus

A consultation on the mechanics of the scheme closed on 24 December 2010. The responses, including one from the English National Park Authorities Association, are currently being considered and details of the final scheme will be published in due course.

Housing: Regeneration

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he made of the effect on local housing market of housing market renewal programme before taking the decision to cancel the programme. [33296]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 13 January 2011]*: Housing market renewal pathfinders provided case studies to the Homes and Communities Agency and DCLG about their local housing areas during 2010, and these studies were used to inform the CSR assessment process.

Some pathfinder schemes were successful, however, others attracted controversy due to an over-reliance on demolition, in part encouraged by top-down government targets.

The reality of the fiscal deficit means that the spending review has had to take tough decisions about where savings can be made and consequently housing market renewal funding in the form of a separate programme will end in March 2011. We will make further announcements on promoting regeneration in due course. We have already announced plans to get empty homes back into productive use via the new homes bonus.

Local Government: Pay

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of *(a)* local and *(b)* county council executives receive salaries greater than that of the Prime Minister. [33643]

Robert Neill: Information on local authority senior pay is not held centrally. However, the new Government's transparency reforms will ensure that this information is published online to ensure greater public scrutiny and accountability.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Military Bases

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on redevelopment at each RAF base in the UK in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of likely expenditure on work classified as redevelopment in each of the next five years. [27575]

Mr Robathan: The expenditure on redevelopment, defined as capital expenditure and minor new works, for the major RAF stations in the UK since financial year 2006-07 is shown in the following table:

Expenditure by station

£ million

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
RAF Benson	0.6	2	1	2.2
RAF Boulmer	0.2	0	0.1	0.8
RAF Brampton/Wyton/Henlow	0	0.2	3.2	1
RAF Brize Norton	8.1	13.4	31	14.3
RAF Coningsby	0	0	19	0
RAF Cottesmore	4	0.4	1.7	0.9
RAF Cosford	1.3	0.1	0.6	12
RAF Cranwell	0	0.8	2.7	2.6
RAF Fylingdales	0.1	0	0.2	0
RAF Halton	0.1	0.2	1.1	1
RAF High Wycombe	7.2	2.4	3	3.2
RAF Honington	1.5	0.2	6.8	8.7
RAF Kinloss				
RAF Leeming	0.1	1.4	13.1	0
RAF Leuchars				
RAF Linton-on-Ouse	6.4	0.5	7.6	1.1
RAF Lossiemouth				
RAF Lyneham	2.2	0.9	1.6	2.2
RAF Marham	2.5	0	6	0
RAF Northolt	0.3	0.6	1.2	0.5
RAF Odiham	3.0	3.0	3.6	4.7
RAF Shawbury	0.3	0	0.5	0.8
RAF Spadeadam	0	0	0.1	0.2
RAF St Mawgan	0.08	0.2	0.4	0.4
RAF Valley	1	19.1	14.5	1.4
RAF Waddington	0	0.2	17.3	13
RAF Wittering	0	0.2	0.5	4

Information for the financial year 2005-06 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Data for RAF stations in Scotland are not currently available and I will write to the right hon. and learned Member with the information requested.

The Ministry of Defence is in the process of completing its annual planning round which will allocate future programme budgets. This is expected to conclude in early 2011.

Substantive answer from Mr Andrew Robathan to Sir Menzies Campbell:

In my answer of 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 221W, I undertook to write to you with data on the expenditure on redevelopment (defined as capital expenditure and minor new works) for RAF stations in Scotland since financial year 2006-07. This data is shown in the following table:

Expenditure by station

£ million

	Financial year			
	2006-08	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
RAF Kinloss	5.3	3.9	1.9	1.8
RAF Leuchars	4.7	20.2	5.6	9.4
RAF Lossiemouth	5.6	1.8	4.5	6.1

Information prior to the financial year 2005-06 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Some of the expenditure has been split between individual financial years on an estimated basis.

The Ministry of Defence is in the process of completing its annual planning round which will allocate future programme budgets. This is expected to conclude in early 2011.

Armed Forces: Officers

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps he is taking to reduce the *(a)* number and *(b)* cost of senior officers in the British Army; [34440]

(2) what steps he is taking to reduce the *(a)* number and *(b)* cost of senior officers in the Royal Air Force; [34441]

(3) what steps he is taking to reduce the *(a)* number and *(b)* cost of senior officers in the Royal Navy. [34442]

Nick Harvey: As a result of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the UK's armed forces will be restructured to meet current and emerging threats. In doing so, the services will undergo some changes that will include a reduction in capabilities and the associated manpower requirements. The Defence Reform Unit is looking at a range of cross-cutting issues, including whether the current senior rank structures across the services are appropriate. Details will be promulgated by the services when they have been identified.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Royal Navy officers holding the rank of *(a)* Commodore, *(b)* Rear Admiral, *(c)* Vice Admiral and *(d)* Admiral are currently posted in (i) Scotland, (ii) Wales and (iii) Northern Ireland; [34456]

(2) how many *(a)* Brigadiers, *(b)* Major Generals, *(c)* Lieutenant Generals and *(d)* Generals are posted in (i) Scotland, (ii) Wales and (iii) Northern Ireland; [34467]

(3) how many *(a)* Air Commodores, *(b)* Air Vice Marshals, *(c)* Air Marshals and *(d)* Air Chief Marshals are posted in (i) Scotland, (ii) Wales and (iii) Northern Ireland. [34469]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is provided in the following table:

UK regular forces stationed location as at 1 October 2010

		Scotland	*Wales*	*Northern Ireland*
Royal Navy	*(a)* Commodore	2	1	0
	(b) Rear Admiral	1	0	0
	(c) Vice Admiral	0	0	0
	(d) Admiral	0	0	0
Army	*(a)* Brigadier	3	1	3
	(b) Major General	2	0	0
	(c) Lieutenant General	0	0	0
	(d) General	0	0	0
RAF	*(a)* Air Commodore	2	0	0
	(b) Air Vice Marshal	0	0	0
	(c) Air Marshal	0	0	0
	(d) Air Chief Marshal	0	0	0

Note:
There are no Royal Marine officers in the ranks requested who are stationed in these locations.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Royal Navy officers holding the rank of *(a)* Commodore, *(b)* Rear Admiral, *(c)* Vice Admiral and *(d)* Admiral are serving in the armed forces; [34457]

(2) how many *(a)* Brigadiers, *(b)* Major Generals, *(c)* Lieutenant Generals and *(d)* Generals serve in the armed forces; [34468]

(3) how many *(a)* Air Commodores, *(b)* Air Vice Marshals, *(c)* Air Marshals and *(d)* Air Chief Marshals serve in the armed forces. [34470]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is provided in the following table:

UK regular forces strength by NATO rank at 1 October 2010

	Rank	*Total*	*Royal Navy*	*Royal Marines*	*Army*	*RAF*
	Total	[1]480	[1]110	18	[1]230	[1]130
OF-9	Admiral; General; Air Chief Marshal	10	2	0	5	3
OF-8	Vice Admiral; Lieutenant General; Air Marshal	29	8	0	12	9
OF-7	Rear Admiral; Major General; Air Vice-Marshal	95	25	7	39	24
OF-6	Commodore; Brigadier; Air Commodore	[1]350	74	11	[1]170	91

[1] These figures have been rounded.

Notes:

1. Due to rounding methods used, figures may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
2. Figures less than 100 have been left unrounded so as not to obscure the data.

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34589]

Mr Robathan: Since April 2008 the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in common with all other central Government Departments has participated in the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Property Benchmarking Service, which captures office space utilisation of occupied offices having a net internal area over 500 m^2. For 2009-10 (the latest date for which figures are available) the position is:

	Number
Number of buildings benchmarked	22
Total occupied space (m^2)	278,601
Space per member of full time equivalent staff (m^2)	13.6

The MOD policy on space provided per employee follows the guidelines set out by the OGC. The space provided per employee for new acquisitions and major refurbishments is eight square metres.

The MOD has no central policy on hot desking. Individual areas of the Department are responsible for arrangements locally.

The MOD provides a range of flexible working patterns, including home working which are promoted as part of its overall work/life balance package. Managers are required carefully to consider any requests from staff for home working, but it is not always possible to support a request due to business reasons.

Data on how many employees it has on average per desk are not held.

Electronic Warfare

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the government of *(a)* China and *(b)* Russia on cyberattacks. [29432]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 8 December 2010]:* The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), has not discussed cyber attacks with the Governments of China or Russia.

Germany: Army

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his German counterpart on the redeployment of personnel from Germany. [34224]

Nick Harvey: The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), wrote to the German Defence Minister on 20 October 2010, informing him of our aim to return half our personnel from Germany by 2015 and the remainder by 2020. In addition, my ministerial colleagues and officials maintain regular dialogue with their counterparts in support of our close security and defence partnership. I will be visiting Germany shortly and will discuss the issue with political and civil representatives.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many transport aircraft are being leased by his Department; [32314]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing transport aircraft of each type *(a)* in total and *(b)* per flight hour in each of the last six years. [32338]

Peter Luff: I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to Angus Robertson:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Questions on 21 December 2010, (Official Report, column 1203), about transport aircraft being leased by the MOD.

The Ministry of Defence does not currently lease transport aircraft. We did lease four C-17 aircraft from Boeing between 2001 to 2008 at a fixed price. Costs of operating those aircraft during the period of the lease broken down by flying hour could only be provided at a disproportionate cost. The four leased C-17 aircraft were bought-out on cessation of the seven year lease period in autumn 2008 and are now owned by the Government. We have subsequently purchased three further C-17 aircraft from Boeing.

As I explained in the answer I gave on 12 January 2011 (Official Report, column 235W), we do, however, currently charter aircraft (i.e. contract through an airline broker with private companies to fly Ministry of Defence (MOD) personnel and equipment). Such charters are largely to transport personnel and equipment in direct or indirect support to operations.

The number of aircraft chartered by MOD will vary significantly at any point in time. For example the deployment of new equipments or for unit change-overs may necessitate the charter of additional aircraft. Information is held covering the period from November 2007 until the end of February 2011 (including pre-allotted tasks). The information is held for one-way tasks (or journeys). The number of individual 'aircraft chartered', would be lower owing to the significant number of round-trips undertaken. The tasks have been undertaken by a variety of aircraft types depending on both the load size and whether passengers or freight was transported.

From November 2007 to end February 2011, the Department has chartered approximately 8250 journeys. For the month of January 2011, the Department has chartered 132 aircraft to support 206 tasks (or journeys).

Details of the cost of chartering aircraft broken down by aircraft type and by flying hour over a six year period could only be provided at disproportionate cost, but I am able to advise that total cost of chartering transport aircraft by financial year (excluding military aviation fuel, but including civilian aviation fuel costs) is as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2006-07	70
2007-08	108
2008-09	145
2009-10	155
2010-11 (forecast)	215

The steady increase in spend reflects the increasing size of the deployed force in Afghanistan and the increasing tempo of operations. This was partly offset in 2008-09 to 2009-10 by the withdrawal from Iraq but each tonne of cargo flown to Afghanistan travels considerably more distance than a tonne flown to Iraq, particularly given the requirement for flight routes to avoid Iran. It must also be borne in mind that the landlocked nature of Afghanistan coupled with security constraints demand that we fly much more cargo as a proportion of the total than we did into Iraq.

We would not expect the Op HERRICK charter costs to rise in Financial Year 2011-12 as on current assumptions we do not see our force structure or the sustainment requirement increasing. Costs may however rise as a result of fuel price increases.

Military Exercises: Salisbury Plain

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of work on tank crossings as part of the project to provide safe access for military vehicles across the Salisbury Plain Training Area. [34923]

Mr Robathan: The current estimated cost for work on the tank crossings across Salisbury plain is £2.4 million excluding VAT, fees and design costs.

The actual cost to the Ministry of Defence is unlikely to be known until 2012.

Nuclear Weapons

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 503W, on nuclear weapons, which US establishments were visited by personnel from the Atomic Weapons Establishment in each of the last three years; and how many staff visited each such establishment. [21967]

Peter Luff: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to Paul Flynn:

In my answer to your Parliamentary Question on 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 458W, I undertook to write to you and provide details on the US establishments visited by personnel from the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE).

This information has now been collated: the attached annex details the US establishments visited by AWE personnel in the years 2007, 2008 and 2009. This table covers those visits made under the terms of the US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement, which was the basis for the Answer to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion (Caroline Lucas) on 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 503W.

Breakdown of US establishments visited by AWE personnel in each of the last three years

US Establishments visited by AWE personnel under the terms of the US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement	*Number of visits by AWE staff to each establishment*		
	2007	*2008*	*2009*
US Department of Defence, Pentagon	2	5	1
Los Alamos National Laboratory	232	179	164
National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA) HQ Washington DC	33	66	29
Sandia National Laboratory, New Mexico	179	187	189
Sandia National Laboratory California	28	19	32
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	173	124	166
Honeywell Kansas City Plant	31	45	24
Nevada Test Site	13	52	41
Y12 Plant Oak Ridge	31	18	23
ITT Crystal City	15	15	6
BAE Washington DC	4	6	—
Defence Threat Reduction Agency Washington	19	25	12
NNSA Nevada Operations Office	25	—	5
B&W Pantex Plant	30	27	26
Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space Sunnyvale	11	12	13
Strategic Systems Programme US Navy	—	13	—
Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic	—	6	—
Savannah River National Laboratory	11	—	7

Breakdown of US establishments visited by AWE personnel in each of the last three years

US Establishments visited by AWE personnel under the terms of the US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement	*Number of visits by AWE staff to each establishment*		
	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Defence Intelligence Agency	—	6	—
Southern Research Institute	—	3	—
Remote Sensing Laboratory Nevada	—	5	—
Nevada Intelligence Centre	—	26	—
Naval Surface Warfare Centre	3	9	7
Pax River Naval Air Systems Command	—	2	—
Oak Ridge National Laboratory	9	12	—
Naval Research Laboratory	2	4	6
DTI Associates	6	—	—
Fort Bragg	—	2	—
Systems Planning and Analysis	—	1	—
Air Force Technical Applications Centre Patrick Air Force Base	3	5	—
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory	5	—	3
Kirtland Air Force Base	—	—	9
Miramar Air Station	—	—	3
Federal Bureau of Investigation Quantico	—	—	2
National Security Agency Fort George	—	—	1
Cape Canaveral Air Force Station	—	—	1
Wright Patterson Air Force Base	—	—	5
Tonopah Test Range	—	—	1
NNSA Service Centre Albuquerque	—	—	5
Applied Physical Laboratory	2	—	—
Northrop Grumman	23	—	—
Lockheed Martin Missile and Space Company Cocoa Beach	3	—	—
Idaho National Laboratory	1	—	—
Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific	3	—	—
Defence Threat Reduction Agency Albuquerque	1	—	—
Applied Research Associates	1	—	—
Central Intelligence Agency	1	—	—
Savannah River Site	—	2	6
Total	900	876	787

The total numbers differ from those in the June 2010 answer as some staff visited more than one facility.

Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions an E-3D Sentry has been involved in a search and rescue mission in each of the last 12 months; [34458]

(2) what search and rescue training is taking place for E-3D Sentry crews; and in which locations that training is taking place; [34460]

(3) what capabilities the E-3D Sentry has to detect, identify and track vessels under 300 gross tonnes. [34462]

Nick Harvey: In the last 12 months, no RAF E-3D Sentry has been involved in search and rescue missions. E-3D Sentry is optimised for the air-to-air role and its radar has a limited maritime search mode. I am withholding details on the capability of the E-3D radar to detect, identify and track vessels under 300 gross tonnes as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

There is no formal training requirement for E-3D Sentry crews on specific long range search and rescue techniques. However, an E-3D Sentry participated in a NATO-led SAR training exercise in May 2010. In addition, during normal routine training sorties in UK airspace, crews are trained on an opportunity basis in the operation of the radar's maritime search mode.

The UK will continue to provide search and rescue services using a range of assets depending on the response required.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Regulation

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to reduce the burden of regulation on small and medium-sized enterprises. [34805]

Mr Prisk: Reducing the burden of regulation on businesses, particularly SMEs, is a priority for this Government.

Early this year we will be announcing outcomes from the growth review, which will set out ambitious proposals on where and how regulatory barriers for business should be reduced, enabling private sector growth and creating jobs.

The Better Regulation Executive, in this Department, will also be publishing the Forward Statement of Regulation, giving business prior notice of regulatory and deregulatory measures due to come into affect in the next six months, as well as outlining details of progress the Government have made to reduce regulation.

The BRE continues to work with Departments to identify regulation which is overly burdensome, particularly on SMEs, and support policy makers in using non-regulatory approaches.

Companies: Females

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies that had women as *(a)* sole proprietors and *(b)* directors were registered at Companies House in 2009-10. [34243]

Mr Davey: Companies House does not hold any information on sole proprietors and we do not differentiate between men and women directors.

Conditions of Employment: Reform

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of his proposals for employment rights reform on *(a)* the availability of work placements within degree programmes and *(b)* employment between periods of undergraduate and postgraduate study. [34865]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is leading a cross-Government review of employment legislation. The review aims to maximise the flexibility of employers in managing their work force while maintaining the essential protections for individual employees with the ultimate objective of promoting economic growth. It will consider employment law area by area and any proposals will be consulted on and the potential impact assessed.

Copyright: Internet

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the number of music tracks acquired through illegal downloading in 2010; [33873]

(2) what estimate he has made of the scale of illegal downloading of music from peer-to-peer sources in 2010; [33874]

(3) what estimate he has made of the scale of illegal downloading of music from non-peer-to-peer sources in 2010. [33875]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply.

No estimates of the type the hon. Member refers to have been prepared.

The industry itself have made regular estimates, and these have been cited by Government in the past, but Ofcom will be responsible under the Digital Economy Act 2010 for compiling a data on, among other things, the current level of subscribers' use of internet access services to infringe copyright. This work will start when the initial obligations code comes into force later this year.

Higher Education: Admissions

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of applicants to universities in England for entry in September 2011 who will not secure a place. [33935]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* Statistics on applicants for entry into higher education are available via the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). It is still early in the 2011 application cycle, but published UCAS figures as of the 20 December 2010 show a 2.5% increase in applications (344,064 applications for 2011 entry compared to 335,795 at the same point the previous year). The number of unplaced applicants will depend on the final number of applications and places offered.

We announced in the 2011-12 Higher Education Funding Council for England Grant Letter that we were continuing to make provision for the 10,000 additional entrant places made available through the University Modernisation Fund in May 2010. The number of places offered is therefore unlikely to vary significantly from 2010.

Provisional end of year figures for 2010 show that that there were 209,253 unplaced applicants (688,310 applicants from all domiciles for a place at a UK institution; 479,057 accepted). Of these unplaced applicants, 94,561 had declined an offer or withdrew from the process and 161,984 were domiciled in the UK.

Applicants who were not accepted for entry can include: individuals who did not receive any offer; individuals who received an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decided not to go to University; individuals who received a conditional offer and failed to meet the specific conditions (eg they did not achieve certain grades); and individuals who decided to withdraw from the UCAS system.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the monetary value of the loan his Department provides to each higher education institution to cover the costs of graduate contributions in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [34947]

Mr Willetts: The Department makes forecasts of expenditure on loans towards the cost of graduate contributions at the national level. Full-time student tuition fee loan outlay for English domicile students is estimated to be approximately £2.5 billion in FY 2010-11 and £2.7 billion in 2011-12. As the new arrangements are phased in from 2012-13, the full-time student tuition fee loan outlay is estimated to increase to £3.5 billion in 2012-13, £5 billion in 2013-14 and £6 billion in 2014-15. These are initial estimates and are subject to change as HEIs and students respond to the new funding arrangements. Forecasts are not available at institution level.

Information on outturn expenditure on student loans is published annually as part of the Statistical First Release: "Student Support for Higher Education in England". Final figures for the academic year 2010/11 will be published in November 2011.

Higher Education: Scholarships

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of students who will receive assistance from the proposed National Scholarship Programme in each of the next four years; and whether *(a)* mature and *(b)* part-time students will be able to access the scheme. [34645]

Mr Willetts: The National Scholarship Programme (NSP) will form part of a coherent package of help targeted on bright potential students from disadvantaged backgrounds. All universities that want to charge a higher graduate contribution than the £6,000 threshold will be obliged to participate in the NSP.

The design of the NSP is by no means finalised. Criteria for the NSP are currently being developed through advice from an expert panel, which includes the National Union of Students, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, Universities UK, Sutton Trust and others. My right hon. Friend the Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes), the Government's Advocate for Access to Higher Education, has been invited to join the group.

We want a wide range of people to be able to participate in the Programme and likely groups to be supported include disabled students, part-time students, mature-aged students, those who have been eligible for the pupil premium at school, or have received free school meals or have low family incomes.

Government investment in the Programme will reach £150 million a year by 2014/15. We have suggested that an option of a first free year for disadvantaged students or a foundation year to attract young talented people into the professions could potentially help around 18,000 students in 2014/15. In addition, we will look to increase the leverage of Government funding by getting matched contributions from universities. The number of students who can benefit from the new Programme will depend on the final design which is currently being developed with advice from the expert panel.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships: Operating Costs

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the budget for knowledge transfer networks was spent on administration in the last year for which figures are available. [35047]

Mr Willetts: The Technology Strategy Board's administration costs for supporting the Knowledge Transfer Networks for the period January to December 2010 were £285,000. This covered the total staff costs for the dedicated KTN team within the Technology Strategy Board.

Information on an individual Knowledge Transfer Network's administration costs cannot however be specified as their role is to reach out and organise events and meetings that enable key individuals in business and academe, among others, to network. Much of this activity could be classified as administrative. The cost of delivering these services is however closely scrutinised to ensure value for money and funding is only provided against a well defined business case with clear objectives and outcomes.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships: Pay

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the salary is of the chief executive of each knowledge transfer network. [35048]

Mr Willetts: Knowledge Transfer Networks do not have chief executives, as the services of a network are delivered by companies in receipt of a Technology Strategy Board grant, on condition of appointing a suitably qualified Director to deliver the objectives of the network.

The Director's salary range is between £64,000 and £113,500 reflecting the pay scale of the parent organisation and the market rate for a credible individual within a specific field of technology.

National Scholarship Fund

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether those aged 25 or more *(a)* on low incomes and *(b)* in receipt of benefits will be eligible to receive assistance from the National Scholarship Fund; and if he will make a statement. [34932]

Mr Willetts: The National Scholarship Programme (NSP) will form part of a coherent package of help targeted on bright potential students from disadvantaged backgrounds. All universities that want to charge a higher graduate contribution than the £6,000 threshold will be obliged to participate in the NSP.

Details of the National Scholarship Programme are still being finalised. Criteria for the NSP are currently being developed through advice from an expert panel, which includes the National Union of Students, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, Universities UK, Sutton Trust and others. My right hon. Friend the Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes), the Government's Advocate for Access to Higher Education, has been invited to join the group.

We want a wide range of people to be able to participate in the Programme and likely groups to be supported include disabled students, part-time students, mature-aged students, those who have been eligible for the pupil premium at school, or have received free school meals or whose family income means that they will be eligible to receive student maintenance grants.

Postgraduate Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to establish a working group with the Higher Education Statistics Authority and higher education funding councils to consider what additional information should be collected on postgraduates to inform future policy decisions on widening access to postgraduate study; and if he will make a statement. [34934]

Mr Willetts: We will, as Lord Browne suggested, monitor participation in postgraduate study to identify whether changes to the undergraduate funding and finance system have any effect on entry to postgraduate courses and will set out our proposals for postgraduate provision and our response to the postgraduate review in the forthcoming higher education White Paper.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to identify further ways to promote postgraduate education at universities in England overseas; and if he will make a statement. [34936]

Mr Willetts: The Government welcome genuine students from other countries to study at higher education institutions (HEIs) in England at both postgraduate and undergraduate level. Higher Education Statistics Agency figures published earlier this month show that 334,960 students from outside the United Kingdom were enrolled at English HEIs in 2009/10, with 169,355 at postgraduate level, indicating the high regard in which English higher education is held around the world. The British Council, with its presence in more than 110 countries and territories worldwide, promotes the United Kingdom as a study destination, and works through Education UK partnerships with universities and colleges to support international student recruitment and partnership building with overseas institutions.

Quality Assurance Agency: Performance Standards

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the performance of the Quality Assurance Agency; and if he will make a statement; [34937]

(2) how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by the Quality Assurance Agency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [34938]

Mr Willetts: This Department has made no formal assessment of the performance of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), nor does it hold information about QAA's staffing levels. The QAA is an independent body, a charity, and a company limited by guarantee. It is funded through contracts with the three UK higher education funding bodies and the Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland, and through subscriptions from higher education institutions. The QAA reports annually to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on its activities to assure the quality of higher education in England. Those reports are available on the QAA's website, as are the QAA's contracts with HEFCE, its annual operating plans, and annual reviews.

Research Excellence Framework

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to extend the duration of the operation of the Research Excellence Framework; and if he will make a statement. [34949]

Mr Willetts: The Research Excellence Framework (REF) is being developed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), in collaboration with the higher education funding bodies from the devolved Administrations. Following the announcement in July 2010 of a one year delay to the implementation of the REF, HEFCE has published a revised timetable. Detailed guidance on submissions and assessment criteria will be published during 2011. Higher education institutions will be invited to make submissions for the first assessment under the REF during 2013, and that assessment will take place during 2014, with publication by the end of 2014. Further details are available at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/research/ref/

Science and Innovation Framework

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to extend the duration of the operation of the Science and Innovation Framework; and if he will make a statement. [34948]

Mr Willetts: The Science and Innovation Framework set out the policy of the previous Government. This Government have demonstrated their strong commitment to Science and Research by protecting Science and Research programme funding for the next four years within a ring fence.

Engineering: Equal Opportunities

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding he plans to allocate to the Royal Academy of Engineering to develop a new diversity programme in engineering. [32975]

Mr Willetts: We announced the Royal Academy of Engineering's total grant for each of the next four years on 20 December 2010, as part of the science and research budget allocations, but funding for individual programmes is still being discussed. We expect to conclude these discussions shortly, and the detailed delivery plan will then be published on the academy's website.

UK Resource Centre for Science, Engineering and Technology

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make an estimate of the likely redundancy costs arising from his decision to end funding for the UK Resource Centre for Science, Engineering and Technology. [33622]

Mr Willetts: It is not yet clear whether redundancies will be necessary within UK Resource Centre UKRC; this is a matter for UKRC.

This Department has offered to restructure the remainder of the UKRC's grant this year to assist with UKRC's transition.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what plans he has for the promotion of women's networks in science, technology, engineering and mathematics following the withdrawal of funding to the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology; [33709]

(2) what plans he has for the collation and publication of statistics on women working in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics following the withdrawal of funding for the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology. [33710]

Mr Willetts: BIS officials have monitored the UK Resource Centre's (UKRC) work over the current spending period through receiving regular updates on the progress of UKRC programmes, as part of quarterly progress meetings and through monthly financial summaries.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has visited the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology. [32974]

Mr Willetts: I have not visited the centre itself, and neither have my BIS ministerial colleagues. However, a UK Resource Centre (UKRC) ambassador met me in September 2010 to discuss her work with UKRC.

BIS officials have worked closely with the UKRC over the last spending period, and have visited the centre and attended the organisation's annual conference and other events.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consultation he undertook on his decision to cease funding the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology. [32977]

Mr Willetts: This decision was part of the wider science and research allocation. The following bodies provided advice on this broader allocation:

The Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the British Academy, the Council for Science and Technology, the Chief Scientific Advisers' Committee, the Confederation of British Industry, and the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on his plans to cease funding the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology. [32978]

Mr Willetts: The director of the UK Resource Centre (UKRC) met BIS officials on 21 December 2010 and 19 January 2011 to discuss the announcement that funding for the UKRC will not be continued after the end of the current comprehensive spending review (CSR) period (31 March 2011). I have received seven related items of correspondence.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of changes in the level of his Department's funding for the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology from April 2011 on its access to funds from the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [32979]

Mr Willetts: The UK Resource Centre (UKRC) has been appointed as a partner in the European Union Framework Programme 7 INTEGER project on implementing structural change in higher education institutions (HEIs) and research institutes, due to start in February 2011, but will need to secure £60,000 of further funding to proceed.

If the UKRC secure participation in other FP7 projects, they will need to raise funding beyond the current grant period to proceed with these.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the gender equality training provided by the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology; [32981]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the CEO Charter Scheme operated by the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology. [32982]

Mr Willetts: BIS officials have monitored the UK Resource Centre's (UKRC) work over the current spending period through receiving regular updates on the progress of UKRC programmes, as part of quarterly progress meetings and through monthly financial summaries.

Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34584]

Mr Davey: This Department aims to follow the Government's space standard of 10 square metres per FTE, subject to the building infrastructure being able to handle this level of density.

The Department supports flexible working which can help individuals manage their work-life balance, subject to meeting business needs. Flexible working includes the following examples: flexi-time, part-time, compressed hours, annualised hours and home working. Staff can apply to work at home on an ad hoc or regular basis. Arrangements are agreed and managed locally by line managers.

The Departments predecessors introduced flexible desking several years ago and the majority of the Departments buildings now operate using a mixture of a 7:10 or 8:10 desk to people ratio.

I would refer my hon. Friend to the Office of Government Commerce "State of the Estate" reports for 2009, which can be found at the following link.

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/SOFTE_brochure.pdf

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Members: Allowances

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, whether allowance limits for hon. Members will be increased to cover increases in *(a)* the rate of value added tax and *(b)* national insurance contributions for staff. [34371]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated January 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether the allowance limits for hon. Members will be increased to cover increases in (a) the rate of value added tax (VAT) and (b) National Insurance Contributions for staff. (34371)

For the remainder of this financial year, the budget limits set out in the MPs' Expenses Scheme will not be increased to cover the increase in VAT. Decisions regarding the budget limits for 2011-12 will be taken as part of the Annual Review of the Expenses Scheme, which is currently underway. The decisions will take account of the rates of VAT (for those expenses on which VAT is paid) and National Insurance Contributions in 2011-12. We will publish the budget limits for 2011-12 during March 2011.

PRIME MINISTER

Driving Standards Agency: Cardiff

Mr Hain: To ask the Prime Minister (1) on what date he or officials from his Office first discussed with the Secretary of State for Wales the decision to close the Cardiff office of the Driving Standards Agency; [35041]

(2) which officials of his Office were involved in the decision to delay the announcement of the closure of the Cardiff office of the Driving Standards Agency; and for what reasons the decision was taken to delay the announcement until 18 January 2011; [35043]

(3) what involvement his Office had in the decision to delay the announcement of the closure of the Cardiff office of the Driving Standards Agency; [35044]

(4) what the extent of the involvement of his Office was in the decision to close the Cardiff office of the Driving Standards Agency. [35045]

The Prime Minister: My Office had no involvement in this decision. I refer the right hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 36WS.

Technology: East London

Stephen Timms: To ask the Prime Minister what progress he has made on his initiative to create a Tech City in East London. [34567]

The Prime Minister: Following the significant commitment made by leading technology companies to contribute to the East End Tech City, we have been working with the Greater London Authority, UK Trade and Investment and Olympic Park Legacy Company to progress this important initiative. Follow-up events have included technology breakfasts at Number 10, a major conference of over 100 entrepreneurs at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and a networking event held in Shoreditch. I and ministerial colleagues are continuing to engage with global leading technology companies to develop this agenda.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service: Redundancy

Alison McGovern: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has put in place a communications plan in respect of civil service redundancies. [33380]

Mr Maude: Civil service Departments are each responsible for their own work force planning, including redundancies. The Cabinet Office has no plans for central communications on their behalf.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his policy is on redeployment of civil servants to prevent involuntary redundancy; and if he will make a statement. [33382]

Mr Maude: Civil service Departments and agencies are committed to mitigating potential redundancies to the greatest extent possible. This includes opening up redeployment opportunities across the civil service and giving priority consideration to applications from employees at risk of redundancy.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether voluntary redundancy settlements have been reached with the *(a)* Cabinet Office Chief Information Officer, *(b)* Chief Executive of DirectGov and *(c)* Director General of the Office for Civil Society in the last three months; [33683]

(2) how many senior civil servants in his Department have taken *(a)* voluntary redundancy and *(b)* early retirement since November 2010; and what the (i) job title and (ii) financial settlement was in each such case. [33684]

Mr Maude: Since November 2010 there have been seven departures at senior civil service level from the Cabinet Office. These include end of appointments, resignations, early retirements and voluntary exits. These figures include the Government's Chief Information Officer, the Chief Executive of DirectGov and Director General of the Office for Civil Society.

To protect the confidentiality of individual circumstances, it is not possible to provide details of individual arrangements. However Cabinet Office total funding for exits has been £261,000.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mr Spencer: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the effects of changes in the number of centrally-negotiated procurement contracts in Government on the number of contracts awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises. [33598]

Mr Maude: Greater centralisation of public sector procurement is essential if we are to achieve value for money in our purchasing activity. SME participation is an important part of this centralised strategy, either as direct suppliers to Government or as sub-contractors. The previous Government collected no reliable figures on SME participation in Government contracts so the Government are only putting together data on the number of contracts awarded to small businesses and this will be published in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Research

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was allocated to research and development in agriculture by levy boards in each of the last five years; and what estimate she has made of the levels of such funding in each of the next four financial years. [34425]

Mr Paice: Expenditure by the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board on research and development and Knowledge Transfer since its formation in 2008 is shown in following the table. Collated figures for the previous sector boards are not available.

	Source	*Actual expenditure and forecast future spend on R&D and Knowledge Transfer by AHDB (£ million)*
2013-14	Proposed figures, under consultation. Source AHDB	22.6
2012-13	Proposed figures, under consultation. Source AHDB	22.2
2011-12	Proposed figures, under consultation. Source AHDB	21.0
2010-11	Published planned expenditure. Source AHDB	21.5
2009-10	Actual expenditure. From AHDB Annual Report and Accounts 2009-10	19.4
2008-09	Actual expenditure. From AHDB Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09	20.6
2007-08	Actual expenditure. From AHDB Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09	20.2

Cycling: Access

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy of her Department is on the extension to cycling and horse-riding of rights of way access over land. [35088]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is keen to see more access provision for cyclists and horse riders and is encouraging local authorities to develop new routes and to provide access routes where people need them.

Fisheries

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the promotion of pelagic fish for consumption. [34647]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has recently set up the 'Fishing for the Markets' project. This is a new initiative looking to encourage consumption of under-utilised, sustainable species that are often discarded, which may include some pelagic species.

The Government are working to help improve the sustainability of fish throughout the supply chain, from sea to plate. The Food Standards Agency is able to advise on the health issues relating to the consumption of fish.

Flood Control

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Government has made of whether flood risks in England will increase over the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 25 years. [34400]

Richard Benyon: The latest UK climate science confirms that rising sea levels and more severe and frequent rainstorms are likely to occur—resulting in increasing flood and coastal erosion risk. More information is available in the UKCP09 climate projections section of DEFRA's website:

http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/

Work by the Environment Agency suggests that river flows may increase by 20% by 2080, although this may vary around the country.

The Environment Agency's long-term investment strategy presents investment options to manage increasing levels of flood and coastal risk in England caused by climate change and asset deterioration over the next 25 years (2010-35).

A copy of the strategy and related information can be found on the Environment Agency's website.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Environment Agency's capital budget has been for flood risk management in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what that budget is for (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13. [34474]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows flood risk management budgets from DEFRA to the Environment Agency to deliver capital investments through all operating authorities (the Environment Agency, local authorities and internal drainage boards). These are the Environment Agency's budgets for 2008-11 for England, and the allocation assumptions for 2011-13 based on the DEFRA settlement.

	From DEFRA (£ million)
2008-09	340
2009-10	349
2010-11	354
2011-12	259
2012-13	259

Flood Control: Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when construction of the Environment Agency's flood Alleviation Scheme at Water End, York will commence; [34398]

(2) when construction of the Environment Agency's flood Alleviation Scheme at Thirsk, North Yorkshire will commence. [34399]

Richard Benyon: The indicative funding allocation proposals for flood and coastal erosion risk management projects for 2011-12 are currently subject to discussion between the Environment Agency and its regional flood defence committees.

Final decisions on the allocation of funds to regional committees will be made in February or March by the Environment Agency's board, and decisions on the programmes of schemes to be delivered next year will be made by the committees in April.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Environment Agency's Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee will approve its capital programme for 2011-12. [34401]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency's Yorkshire Committee will consider its business plan for 2011-12 for approval by 21 April 2011.

The business plan incorporates capital and revenue programmes, and will be based on final allocations of grant in aid to be approved by the Environment Agency's Board on 3 February 2011.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Environment Agency's capital spending was on flood risk management in the Yorkshire and North East Region in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what that budget is for (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13. [34475]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency's capital spending and indicative expenditure on flood risk management in the Yorkshire and North East region for the specified years is given in the following table.

Yorkshire and North East region capital expenditure

		£ million
(a)	2008-09	28.5
(b)	2009-10	45.8
(c)	2010-11	41.1
(i)	2011-12	[1]32.5
(ii)	2012-13	[2]—

[1] Indicative allocation for agency projects.

[2] The budget for future years will depend on the outcome of DEFRA's "Future funding for Flood and Coast Erosion Risk Management" consultation.

Food Standards Agency: Research

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was allocated to research and development in agriculture by the Food Standards Agency in the last five years; and what estimate she has made of the level of such funding to be allocated by the Agency in each of the next four financial years. [34424]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA), funds research to ensure that the best available evidence is available, from "farm to fork", to protect consumers. The vast majority of FSA research is targeted on issues post farm-gate. Information on each of the research (and survey) projects funded by the FSA (including the cost) is placed in the public domain on an annual basis. The project lists for the last five years can be accessed from the FSA website as follows:

2005-06: (Appendix 1, p 81 onwards)

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/annualscirep

2006-07: (Appendix 1, p 91 onwards)

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/researchreport2007.pdf

2007-08: (Report data tables)

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/chiefscireport0708data.pdf

2008-09: (Annex D)

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/chiefscireport0809annexed.pdf

2009-10: (Annex A, p 118 onwards)

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/csr0910a.pdf

The FSA future areas for research are prioritised on an annual basis as part of its business planning process, against its strategic needs and to address identified gaps in the evidence base. These will take into account recent Machinery of Government changes, which altered the FSA remit, and the refresh of the FSA's Strategic Plan and Science and Evidence Strategy which is currently out to consultation, ending 11 February 2011. It is therefore not possible to say at this time what levels of funding will be allocated to research and development in agriculture over the next four years, but it is likely to be a similar picture to the most recent reports cited above.

Research: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding her Department allocated to research and development in the last five years; and how much such funding she plans to allocate in each of the next four financial years. [34358]

Richard Benyon: Core DEFRA's research and development spend for the last five years was as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	139
2006-07	137
2007-08	130
2008-09	128
2009-10	[1]119

[1] The Department's Evidence Investment Strategy published in January 2010 quoted a 'budget' for research in 2009-10 of £125 million. The figure above reflects the actual 'spend'.

The data was taken from the Science Information System, which is used to monitor and record details of DEFRA's research and development projects.

The total DEFRA evidence budgets (which include research and development) for the core Department over the next four years will be maintained in the same proportion of total programme expenditure in 2014-15 as in 2010-11.

Evidence is defined as reliable and accurate information that DEFRA can use to support sound decisions in developing, shaping and evaluating policy. It includes research and development, monitoring and surveillance, economic and statistical analysis and modelling, secondary analysis and synthesis, and analysis of stakeholder views.

The total budget available to commission evidence in each year is as follows:

	£ million
2010-11	210
2011-12	199
2012-13	188
2013-14	177
2014-15	167

For comparison, the budget for evidence in 2009-10 was £213 million, of which, £119 million was classified as research spend. In addition, the budget for evidence in 2010-11 was £210 million, of which, the approximate research budget is £123 million (actual spend figures not yet available). I do not anticipate any significant change in the proportion of research and development/other evidence commissioned in the next four years. However, it is difficult to be definitive about this as the figures include a significant ring-fenced unallocated evidence provision retained for 2012-13 onwards. This will be allocated annually according to the DEFRA chief scientific adviser's advice on the evidence priorities at the time. The exact proportion of the evidence total spent on research and development may vary depending on this advice.

These figures represent evidence commissioned by core DEFRA in each year from external providers and our three laboratory agencies (the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science; the Food and Environment Research Agency and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency). None of the figures quoted above include evidence commissioned out of grant in aid funds by the Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission or the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew.

Supermarkets: Prices

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the appropriate mechanism for regulation of prices paid to manufacturers by the food retail industry for *(a)* milk, *(b)* cheese, *(c)* yoghurt, *(d)* other dairy products, *(e)* meat from livestock, *(f)* poultry and *(g)* fish. [34453]

Mr Paice: The Government do not consider it appropriate to regulate prices paid to manufacturers by the food retail industry. We believe that the market must drive both production and price levels to ensure that our food and farming industries are efficient, profitable and able to compete on the global market in which we now operate.

It is important to ensure that large retailers cannot abuse power by transferring excessive risks or unexpected costs onto their suppliers, as risks and costs should be shared appropriately throughout the supply chain. Benefits should also be shared appropriately, including with consumers. While the revised Groceries Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP) is a great improvement on the previous regime, the power that large grocery retailers can wield over their suppliers can still create pressures on small producers, which ultimately may impact on consumers.

We therefore propose to establish a Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA) to monitor and enforce the GSCOP. The Bill to establish the GCA will be brought forward in the near future.

Water: Elderly and Vulnerable People

Rory Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to ensure that national water suppliers and utilities companies are prioritising for reconnection of services and repairs for the elderly and vulnerable during the recent water shortages. [34926]

Richard Benyon: There have been no recent water shortages or disconnections of customers from the mains water supply in England. However, some customers did suffer disruption to their water supply as a result of burst pipes within their properties, and on water company networks, during the cold weather in December and January.

Where there were supply disruptions due to bursts on water company mains, the water company provided water by alternative means as required by the Security and Emergency Measures Direction 1998, which was produced under the provisions of Section 208 of the Water Industry Act 1991.

Priority is given to the domestic needs of the sick, the elderly, the disabled, hospitals, schools, and other vulnerable sectors of the population.

Where there are supply disruptions due to bursts within customers' properties, this is the responsibility of the customer.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arms Control

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent permanent staff of his Department were allocated to working on preparations and negotiations towards an international arms trade treaty in each of the last five years. [34155]

Alistair Burt: Securing a robust and effective arms trade treaty remains a priority for the UK Government. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's counter proliferation department and the UK arms control and disarmament mission in Geneva lead on the negotiation of an arms trade treaty and are supported by many other departments and posts across the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's extensive network, and expertise from across Whitehall. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep records on the full-time equivalent staff that have worked on the issue over the last five years.

China: EU External Trade

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is the Government's policy that the EU arms embargo on China should be maintained. [35039]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government's view is that the time is not right to lift the EU arms embargo on China.

Conferences

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on conferences since May 2010. [34669]

Mr Bellingham: As budgets in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are devolved to FCO missions overseas and to individual directorates and strategic programmes within the UK, this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, all expenditure undertaken by the FCO is directly aimed at achieving our foreign policy priorities, to ensure the Department achieves value for money and is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the HM Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Conflict Prevention

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 955W, on conflict prevention, whether he plans to lay a draft of the Building Stability Overseas Strategy before Parliament for consultation before publishing the final strategy. [35028]

Mr Bellingham: I do not plan to lay a draft of the Building Stability Overseas strategy before Parliament for consultation ahead of publication but, as I confirmed in my reply to my hon. Friend on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 955W, we intend to engage widely with hon. and right hon. Members, those from the other place, and a range of other interested groups, to ensure that the strategy takes account of their views and expertise.

Departmental Libraries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 956-7W, on departmental libraries, which external consultants advised on the closure of his Department's library; and how much they were paid. [33879]

Alistair Burt: The external consultants were Tribal Avail. Their independent research and findings covered a wide scope of information management activities in addition to the library. The cost of this advice specifically on the library cannot be disaggregated but the cost of the full review was £47,338.41.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 956-7W, on departmental libraries, who conducted the internal review in 2003 that led to the closure of his Department's library; and if he will place a copy of the review's findings in the Library. [33880]

Alistair Burt: The internal review was conducted by Management Consultancy Services (MCS) within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We will arrange for a copy of the findings to be deposited in the Library.

Departmental Travel

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on travel for officials since May 2010. [34672]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spent £8,082,466 on travel between May to December 2010. These costs are for journeys booked through the FCO travel management company (Hogg Robinson) and do not include the cost of travel booked through local travel agencies at overseas posts, which is available only at disproportionate cost. This is in line with our need to operate a global network of over 250 posts and move staff between these posts.

European External Action Service

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the UK's contribution to the costs of the EU External Action Service. [34656]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The UK makes its contributions to the EU Budget as a whole and not to individual areas of spending within it. The UK's share, excluding the UK abatement, of financing the 2011 EU Budget is estimated to be 15%. The budget adopted for 2011 for the EU External Action Service was €464 million.

The amending Budget Letter agreeing additional funding for the EEAS in 2011 was accompanied by a Council declaration calling for a savings plan to be presented by the chief operating officer as a priority task. We also secured a Council declaration calling for Budget neutrality and for a concrete plan to ensure cost savings and efficiencies in the future.

India: Embassies

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the merits of opening a consulate in Chandigarh, Punjab, India. [34781]

Alistair Burt: The United Kingdom is represented by the British Trade Office in Chandigarh and also has a visa application centre there. Diplomatic and consular work in the state of Punjab is led by our high commission in New Delhi.

The Government are committed to strengthening their partnership with India in order to work together to mutual benefit. This reflects India's increasingly important role in the world and our shared interest in democracy, sustained economic growth and global security. This renewed focus on India means that we will continue to review the resources required to deliver our ambitious agenda.

Morocco: al-Qaeda

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with the Moroccan government on infiltration of Polisario by al-Qaeda in the Maghreb. [R] [35013]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed this subject with the Government of Morocco.

I visited Morocco in December 2010, where I discussed a broad range of issues relating to the Western Sahara. I also welcomed our co-operation with Morocco in the field of security. There is no evidence to suggest a formal link between the Polisario and al-Qaeda in the Maghreb. We are carefully monitoring the activities of al-Qaeda in the Maghreb and their links with criminal organisations.

Office of UK Permanent Representative to the EU

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which firm of headhunters will be used to help identify suitable external candidates to fill the position of UK Permanent Representative to the EU; and what brief that firm will be given. [34080]

Alistair Burt: None.

Palestinian Children

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his contribution of 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 40-44WH, on the detention of Palestinian children, what steps his Department has taken to raise the issue of the detention of Palestinian children since 7 December 2010. [34966]

Alistair Burt: During my visit to the region on 16-19 January 2011, I raised general human right issues with a number of my Israeli interlocutors. On the specific issue of child prisoners, our consulate-general in Jerusalem and our embassy in Tel Aviv continue to monitor this issue closely, including attending court cases. Our consulate-general also works closely with Defence for Children International, funding a project to promote awareness of the issue, including among EU member states.

Racism: International Co-operation

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on UK representation at the proposed UN conference on anti-racism planned for 2011. [34088]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government have not yet made a decision on our participation in the meeting in September to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the World Conference Against Racism. We recognise that it is common practice for the UN to convene meetings at regular periodic intervals to commemorate the adoption of its various social and human rights-related agendas such as the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. But previous meetings on this issue, including the initial World Conference Against Racism as well as its 2009 review conference, were overshadowed by unacceptable and offensive anti-Semitic rhetoric and behaviour.

UK officials will work closely with colleagues in other countries to ensure that the September meeting does not become another platform for such behaviour and that the meeting addresses all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism. We will also work hard to ensure that any outcome from the meeting includes a clear statement on the need to further combat anti-Semitism as part of wider efforts to combat racism. Our position on participation and representation will remain under review as a result of these efforts.

Sudan: Diplomatic Relations

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes he plans for UK representation in south Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [35024]

Mr Bellingham: With the agreement of the Governments of Sudan and Southern Sudan, the British embassy office in Juba, Southern Sudan, has recently been upgraded to a consulate-general. A newly appointed consul-general will take up his post in the near future. Any further changes to the nature of UK representation will depend on the result of the referendum.

Tunisia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit Tunisia to promote bilateral relations. [33721]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to visit Tunisia at present.

I visited Tunisia from 28-30 November 2010 where I engaged in discussions with my Tunisian hosts on energy and commercial opportunities, co-operation on counter-terrorism, regional issues and relations with the EU. I also spoke about the need to ensure that political and economic stability is built upon openness, tolerance and access to government and civil society.

I have also met with the Tunisian Ambassador to the UK to discuss the recent social unrest in Tunisia and the importance of observing free and fair elections as soon as possible. We encourage maximum effort to restore law and order and call for full inclusion of all legal parties in the formation of a new government.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with their Algerian counterparts on proposals by the Moroccan government to offer limited autonomy to Western Sahara. [R] [35014]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed this subject with his Algerian counterpart.

I visited Algeria in November 2010, where I raised the issue of Western Sahara with the Government of Algeria. I re-iterated our commitment to the United Nations Security Council position, calling for a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

TREASURY

40p Per Mile Travel Allowance

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to increase the 40p pence per mile travel allowance for self-employed taxpayers. [34263]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in response to the hon. Member for Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks) on 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 785W.

Departmental Consultants

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on consultancy since May 2010. [34542]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury spent (excluding VAT) £10.38 million on consultancy services during the period May-December 2010. These data relate to HM Treasury only and do not include any of the Treasury's Executive agencies.

The Government have pledged to reduce consultancy spend. HM Treasury has implemented a consultancy freeze in line with current Cabinet Office policy, to ensure that consultants are only retained when there is an operational necessity.

Departmental Newspapers

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on newspapers and magazines since May 2010. [34545]

Justine Greening: The Treasury spent £37,568 on newspapers and periodicals between 1 June 2010 and 31 December 2010.

Departmental Official Cars

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on Government Car Service cars since 13 July 2010. [34539]

Justine Greening: During the period 13 July 2010 to 31 December 2010, invoices to the value of £97,000 were received by the Department in respect of the Government Car Service. In the equivalent period in 2009, £396,000 was spent.

Departmental Travel

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much his Department has spent on travel by his officials since May 2010; [34540]

(2) how much his Department has spent on taxis since May 2010. [34541]

Justine Greening: The Treasury spent £813,000 on travel (of which travel by taxi in the UK was £59,000) by Ministers and officials between 1 June 2010 and 31 December 2010. The Department's accounting system does not differentiate between travel by Ministers and officials and the information could not be obtained within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Excise Duties: Fuel

Mr Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to introduce a fuel duty stabiliser. [34914]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 665W, to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith).

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the existing system for owners of vehicles licensed in the Historic Vehicle Taxation Class to make a Statutory Off Road Notification; and if he will bring forward proposals to reintroduce a rolling exemption from vehicle excise duty for vehicles constructed before 1 January 1973. [34920]

Justine Greening: The Statutory Off Road Notification system was introduced in 1998 and continues to offer effective tax-free storage of vehicles off the public road while ensuring the accuracy of the vehicle register. The Government have no plans to change the exemption against the current backdrop of fiscal consolidation.

Ex-Gratia Payments

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions ex-gratia payments in respect of delayed payment of age-related rebates arising from the late processing of electronically-submitted pension forms have been made in each of the six years. [34574]

Justine Greening: 403 ex-gratia payments arising from late processing were made in 2008-09 and 85 ex-gratia payments arising from late processing were made in 2009-10. HMRC hold information from which such statistics could be provided for the four years prior to 2008-09. However, the information is not readily available and to provide the information would require a manual trawl through all clerical age-related rebate case papers worked over the four year period.

Income Tax

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of people in single income households with children who will pay income tax at the higher rate from *(a)* April 2012 and *(b)* April 2013. [34454]

Justine Greening: The number of people in single income households with children who will pay income tax at the higher rate from April 2012 is estimated to be around 190,000. This is estimated to be around 15,000 higher than the equivalent number from April 2011.

Estimates for April 2013 are not available.

Public Finance

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the budget deficit. [35040]

Justine Greening: Outturn figures for the Government deficit (Public Sector Net Borrowing) can be found in the public finances databank on the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psf_statistics.htm

In November, the independent Office for Budget Responsibility forecast Public Sector Net Borrowing to 2015-16. This is available at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf

Revenue and Customs: Address Data

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs spent on address cleansing in each of the last five years. [34553]

Justine Greening: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) undertook a project costing £1.03 million in 2006-07 to enable cleansing of address data on a regular basis through HMRC IT systems by reference to reliable data from external organisations specialising in the collection and consolidation of address data.

Since then HMRC has paid around £1.1 million per annum for the data.

HMRC now undertakes address cleansing and matching on weekly and monthly cycles, and pay Capgemini under the service lines appropriate to Business Applications Support and Maintenance (S02) and Data Centre Operations (S04) to do this as part of their work in maintaining and supporting HMRC IT systems. The costs for this service cannot be separated out from the overall charge.

Revenue and Customs: Relocation

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what criteria he plans to apply to determine which members of HM Revenue and Customs staff are selected for compulsory relocation as a result of the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review; [34784]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the number of compulsory relocations of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) staff between different tax offices which will arise from planned changes to HMRC's funding and organisation during the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [34785]

Justine Greening: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is currently preparing its business plan for the next four years in response to the spending review settlement. It involves the delivery of change right across the Department and the impact on lines of business, office locations and staffing is not yet known. HMRC expects to publish a high level HMRC Change and Delivery Plan around the end of January. This will be developed through the spring and beyond. Further iterations will contain the detail of impacts on individual jobs and offices.

If staff moves are needed to fit in with changing business requirements these will be considered taking personal circumstances into account. All HMRC staff have a contract of employment specifying whether the jobholder is fully mobile or has limited mobility and mobility rules provide a framework within which staff moves can take place. The mobility rules facilitate redeployment of staff both within reasonable daily travel time and, for fully mobile staff, a move of home when this is necessary.

Technology

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what support his Department is providing to the Prime Minister's initiative to create a Tech City in East London. [34566]

Danny Alexander: The Treasury is leading a Growth Review, jointly with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, in order to create the conditions for economic growth and to improve the dynamism of the UK business environment. This will cover issues of importance to technology based companies including access to finance, better regulation and competition. In its first phase, the review is focusing on a number of sectors with a high technology content including advanced manufacturing, business and professional services, digital and creative industries, and healthcare and life sciences. A first report will be made by Budget 2011.

VAT

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements he plans to put in place for businesses without internet access to file their value added tax returns after online filing becomes compulsory. [34435]

Justine Greening: From 1 April 2010 existing VAT registered businesses with a VAT—exclusive turnover of £100,000 or more, and all businesses newly registering for VAT on or after that date, whatever their turnover, are legally required to file their VAT returns online. From April 2012, virtually all VAT-registered businesses will have to file VAT returns online.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offer support and advice for all customers who need help in converting to online filing, including the very small minority of customers without internet access. Customers without internet access have the option of appointing an agent to file on their behalf, or using other internet access which may be available to them (for example, through public libraries etc). Depending on the customer's precise circumstances, there may be other options available—HMRC contact centre staff can advise individual customers further.

The vast majority of customers affected by the change have successfully made the conversion to online filing, and another 360,000 have switched to online filing voluntarily.

VAT: Child Poverty

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made on levels of child poverty of the effects of the increase in the rate of value added tax. [34471]

Justine Greening: The increase in the main rate of VAT was announced by the Chancellor in the June Budget. In his Budget statement the Chancellor confirmed that the VAT increase is part of the overall plan to tackle the deficit.

Neither the June Budget, nor the spending review will have any measurable impact on child poverty over the next two years, as detailed in Annex B (distributional analysis) and the Data Sources Document. The Government published their Child Poverty consultation recently, and will publish the first Child Poverty Strategy in spring 2011.

VAT: Fuels

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the receipts to accrue from *(a)* value added tax and *(b)* excise duty on petrol, diesel and other automotive fuels in each of the next four financial years; [34738]

(2) what estimate he has made of the change in the level of receipts from the sale of petrol, diesel and other automotive fuels which will result from the increase in the rate of value added tax on 4 January 2011 in each of the next four financial years. [34739]

Justine Greening: Forecasts for the total amount of receipts expected in the next four financial years from excise duty on fuels are available in Table 4.6 of the Office of Budgetary Responsibility's "Economic and Fiscal Outlook" publication:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf

VAT forecasts and revenue impacts from policy changes are estimated at an aggregate level and are not available for individual goods and services.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Biomass

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his classification of biomass as a zero-carbon technology includes consideration of emissions arising from the drying of biomass prior to the combustion of the fuel. [34833]

Gregory Barker: These emissions are considered. Under internationally agreed guidelines, the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of fossil fuel to dry the biomass prior to combustion for energy are estimated and reported by the country where the drying takes place.

Greenhouse gas emissions associated with the combustion of biomass are counted as zero at the power plant under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines. This is because the corresponding changes in terrestrial carbon stocks are estimated and reported in the land-use change and forestry sector of the country where the harvesting for biomass took place, and are therefore not counted again at the point of use. This does not prevent the UK from using a life cycle approach in its domestic policies. The UK Government are introducing sustainability criteria for the use of solid and gaseous biomass, other than waste or wholly derived from waste, to generate electricity under the renewables obligation (RO) from April this year. These sustainability criteria include a minimum greenhouse gas emissions saving of 60% compared to fossil fuel and general restrictions on the use of materials from land important on carbon or biodiversity grounds. The greenhouse gas emissions will be assessed across a lifecycle that includes the emissions associated with the processing of feedstocks such as drying.

Following a transition phase, where solid and gaseous biomass plants over 50 kW will be required to report on their performance against the criteria, from April 2013, solid and gaseous biomass electricity plants of 1 MW and over will be required to meet these criteria in order to receive support under the RO.

Carbon Emissions: Global Warming

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will undertake a study of the *(a)* quantity, *(b)* origins and *(c)* contribution to global warming of black carbon emissions from the UK. [34834]

Gregory Barker: The Department has no current plans to commission a study specifically on the quantity, origins or contribution to global warming of black carbon emissions from the UK but the need for this is under review. The Department is, however, currently funding as part of the Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme a number of important studies on the climate impacts of black carbon more generally at a global scale. DEFRA is also funding a national network of black carbon measurements at 21 sites across the UK for air quality monitoring purposes.

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with representatives of business organisations on the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency scheme. [34633]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to simplifying the CRC scheme. The Secretary of State and I regularly meet businesses to discuss climate change and energy issues including the CRC. My officials are also discussing how to simplify the policy landscape with a wide range of the CRC participants.

Carbon Sequestration

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to apply a cap to the member of new entrant reserve applications for carbon capture and storage demonstration projects. [34916]

Charles Hendry: The Government do not intend to apply a cap to the number of new entrant reserve (NER) applications for carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration projects. All applications that meet the minimum NER eligibility criteria will be submitted to the European Investment Bank for consideration. As set out in our guidance on the NER, available from

www.decc.gov.uk

we will, however, prioritise applications from CCS projects in the NER process which are consistent with the domestic policy priorities for CCS.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the next phase of carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration projects will include pre-combustion CCS. [34917]

Charles Hendry: As set out in the information note ("UK Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Commercial Scale Demonstration Programme: Delivery Projects 2-4 (Further Information)"), available from

www.decc.gov.uk

published by my Department in December, the next phase of CCS demonstration projects (Projects 2-4) will be open to projects that incorporate CO_2 capture based on post-combustion, pre-combustion or oxyfuel methods.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to announce the next phase of carbon capture and storage projects. [34918]

Charles Hendry: As set out in the information note "UK Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Commercial Scale Demonstration Programme: Delivery Projects 2-4 (Further Information)"—published by my Department in December, we intend to launch the process to select further CCS projects under the programme following Budget 2011 which is available from:

www.decc.gov.uk

Electricity Prices

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 142W, on energy: prices, what the increase in electricity prices for each decile of the population by income constitute in cash terms. [34250]

Charles Hendry: Pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 142W, Government launched consultations on a package of options for reforming the electricity market on 16 December 2010. The preferred package is to have a feed-in tariff with a 'contract for difference' model for supporting low-carbon generation in combination with a targeted capacity mechanism, carbon price support and an emissions performance standard. The following table shows the estimated absolute increase in average domestic electricity bills (expressed in real 2009 prices) for each income decile for years 2013, 2016 and 2020 compared to an electricity bill in the same year absent the package of reform options.

Impact of preferred electricity market reform options on average annual electricity bill

£ (real 2009 prices)

Equivalised disposable income decile	*2013*	*2016*	*2020*
Bottom	2	12	6
2	2	12	6
3	2	13	6
4	2	13	6
5	3	14	7
6	2	14	7
7	3	15	7
8	3	14	7
9	3	14	7
Top	3	14	7

Electricity

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of implementation of the proposals in his consultation document on electricity market reform on inward investment in the UK energy sector; and if he will make a statement. [34632]

Charles Hendry: The Electricity Market Reform consultation document sets out a range of mechanisms to secure the essential investment required in our electricity infrastructure. The consultation process is intended to garner views from industry, the financial sector, academics, NGOs and others on how we might best implement the proposals and specifically asks for information on how the mechanisms might impact levels of investment and new entry to the market. The process is intended to bring new entrants into the market, including inward investment from abroad.

The Government will be setting out their final views in a White Paper later in 2011.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the Government has allocated to provide domestic energy customers with energy efficiency advice and information in 2011-12. [35337]

Gregory Barker: The Government have not yet finalised the funding for energy efficiency advice and information in 2011-12, but we can confirm that DECC will grant fund the Energy Saving Trust (EST) to deliver this advice and remains committed to ensuring that consumers receive comprehensive, high quality telephone and online advice in 2011-12.

Energy Supply

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with gas and electricity suppliers on trends in energy supply costs to domestic consumers; and if he will make a statement. [34631]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet with suppliers on a regular basis to discuss market issues.

We believe it is important that consumers have the lowest possible energy bills, consistent with the need to invest to reduce carbon emissions from energy and ensure security of supply.

Ofgem therefore, monitors the market closely and reports quarterly on retail prices. Their latest report shows large increases in estimated supplier margins for the year ahead, largely due to recent price increases. We are disappointed on behalf of consumers by this development and welcome the announcement of Ofgem's review of the retail market. Ofgem will report on this review in March of this year. This announcement is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Media/PressRel/Documents1/Retail%20Market%2026%20November.pdf

Energy Supply: Biomass

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the proportion of biomass used in heating and electricity generation in the UK which is imported; and how much biomass was imported for such purposes from each country in the latest period for which figures are available. [34832]

Gregory Barker: DECC publishes data on the imports of straw, short rotation coppice and other plant-based biomass for energy use. Imports of these fuels represented 36 per cent of total supply of these fuels for energy use in 2009. DECC does not hold information on the source of these imports. Information on wood imports is collected by HM Revenue and Customs as part of its overseas trade statistics but these data do not indicate the final use of the wood. As such, DECC does not have a figure for the proportion of imports of wood used for energy use.

As referred to in PQ 2010-1241, from April 2009, the renewables obligation required electricity generators over 50 kilowatts to submit an annual sustainability report to Ofgem setting out the available information on their biomass feedstocks, including country of origin. Information for the first reporting period is available from Ofgem's website at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx?docid=222&refer=Sustainability/Environment/RenewablOb1

Energy Prices

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will use his powers under the Energy Act 2010 to introduce social pricing for low-income families with children. [35472]

Gregory Barker: The coalition Government announced in the spending review that energy suppliers will be required from April 2011 to provide greater help with the financial costs of energy bills to more of the most vulnerable fuel poor households. This will be delivered through the Warm Home Discount—with total support of £250 million in 2011-12 rising to £310 million in 2014-15.

We have recently consulted on the detailed policy design, including eligibility and targeting methods and a response to this consultation will be published in due course.

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the number of people *(a)* in Suffolk Coastal constituency and *(b)* nationally who have entered fuel poverty as a result of recent trends in the price of heating oil. [35484]

Gregory Barker: DECC does not have any information on the number of households entering fuel poverty as a result of recent trends in heating oil prices at either a national or regional level.

However, as seen in the following tables, DECC does have estimates of the number of households in England and the East of England Government office region using heating oil to heat their homes and the proportion of these that are fuel poor. The most recent data currently available relates to 2008.

East of England (Government office region)

	Number of households using heating oil (Thousand)	*Number of these households that are fuel poor (Thousand)*	*Proportion of 'heating oil' households in fuel poverty (Percentage)*
2007	202	43	21
2008	209	63	30

England

	Number of households using heating oil (Thousand)	*Number of these households that are fuel poor (Thousand)*	*Proportion of 'heating oil' households in fuel poverty (Percentage)*
2007	926	214	23
2008	828	236	29

Fuel Oil

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland who rely on the use of domestic heating oil. [35336]

Gregory Barker: The latest figures available show that around 828,000 households in England; 155,000 in Scotland; 143,000 in Wales and 527,000 in Northern Ireland use domestic heating oil as their main heating fuel.

These figures are estimated by each devolved Administration from their latest housing and house condition surveys.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the monetary value of heating oil sales in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [35338]

Charles Hendry: The following table details UK expenditure on heating oils by the domestic and non-domestic sector.

£ million

	Domestic		Non-domestic		
	Burning oil	Gas oil	Burning oil	Gas oil	Fuel oil
2005	850	50	450	1,570	80
2006	1,030	70	580	1,670	150
2007	950	80	570	1,670	200
2008	1,420	110	730	2,350	260
2009	1,020	70	540	1,670	190

Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2010

Neither the domestic nor the non-domestic data above are able to be split by country. A large proportion of the non-domestic fuel spend shown above will be used for non-heating purposes.

Data from the ONS's Family Spending report (table A3 7) suggest that on average for the period 2007-09, households in England spent £0.90/week, in Scotland £1.40/week, in Wales £2.50/week and in Northern Ireland £13.80/week on home fuels excluding gas and electricity.

Met Office

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what written long range winter weather forecast his Department received from the Met Office in October 2010. [35463]

Gregory Barker: The Met Office provided a written forecast to the Cabinet Office in October, which was then shared with the Department.

The forecast stated that early to mid-winter in northern Europe was likely to be colder and drier than the 1971 to 2000 average, with an increased risk of a cold and wintry start.

Shale Gas and Methane

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects of *(a)* shale gas and *(b)* coalbed methane exploration on the development of low-carbon energy. [34852]

Charles Hendry: The impact of unconventional gas production on the development of low-carbon energy in the UK will be principally driven by its impact on UK gas prices. The impact of further unconventional production on UK prices will depend on the extent and location of any production, whether production levels exceed or fall short of market expectations, and how it alters the costs of the marginal source of gas supply.

However, the prospects for unconventional gas are only one driver for gas prices. The future path of UK gas prices will also be driven by the global demand for gas, the price of other fuels, the tightness in different parts of the supply chain, the reliability of different supplies and the cost of producing conventional gas.

Under current market arrangements, if gas prices were to fall and if there were not an offsetting increase in carbon prices then this could result in less investment in low-carbon generation and greater investment in gas-fired generation. The opposite could result if gas prices were to rise.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the potential effects of exploration of *(a)* shale gas and *(b)* coalbed methane on meeting UK climate change targets. [34853]

Charles Hendry: Shale gas and coalbed methane have not yet been commercially proven on a large scale in the UK, so it is too early to judge any potential effects on UK climate change targets.

Shale Gas

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on a moratorium on shale gas exploration pending the report of the US Environmental Protection Agency on risks to humans and the environment. [34854]

Charles Hendry: Government are aware there have been reports from US of issues linked to some shale gas projects.

The UK has a long history of onshore gas exploration, the range of techniques employed in shale gas drilling and testing operations is broadly similar to those used for orthodox gas production, and there is a strong regulatory safety and environmental regime in place administered by the Health and Safety Executive, local authorities and the relevant environmental agencies to ensure that potential risks to safety or the environment are properly managed.

There are only a small number of companies pursuing shale gas extraction in the UK at present and the size of this resource has still yet to be quantified. We would not expect high levels of activity over the next few years.

On the basis of available information, the Department sees no need for a moratorium on shale gas activities in the UK.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what independent scientific advice he has sought on the environmental implications of drilling for shale gas. [35046]

Charles Hendry: It has not been necessary to seek independent scientific advice. There is a robust regulatory system in place to ensure any environmental implications are minimised. These would be assessed on a site-specific basis by the Environment Agency (EA), in England and Wales, via their role as a statutory consultee in the planning process or as part of their consideration of the need for, and subsequent response to, an application for an environmental permit (under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010). The EA has its own in-house technical expertise which is used to support its role in protecting and managing water quality and resources and this expertise is available to Government.

In addition the British Geological Survey (BGS) has geological expertise and holds the nation's base data on geological conditions. On behalf of DECC, BGS recently carried out a study on the prospectivity of shale gas in the UK. The study has been placed on DECC's oil and gas website and can be found via the following weblink:

https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/upstream/licensing/shalegas.pdf

In terms of environmental emissions, there is no current commercial production of shale gas within UK territory and no assessment of the potential impact on global warming of such operations has been made.

More generally Government and their regulatory agencies will study the experience already gained in other countries, notably the US, though it cannot be assumed that US experience will necessarily be equally relevant to UK conditions or to the UK regulatory framework.

Nuclear Power Stations

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has assessed the supply of nuclear technicians required for the development of new nuclear power stations. [35219]

Charles Hendry: Yes. Cogent, the sector skills council, have created two pieces of labour market research to establish the current state of skills in the industry and model the future skills requirements. The second report "Next Generation, Skills for New Build Nuclear" was published in March 2010 in response to a request from the Nuclear Development Forum to research capacity, capability and timeline to secure a new build nuclear programme up to 2025. The report assessed the skills landscape and identified areas where there was a risk of there not being enough skilled workers. It recommends mitigating actions which the Department is working with skills bodies to implement.

Renewable Energy

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the Renewables Obligation does not require minimum energy efficiency standards in respect of eligibility for biomass energy support; and if he will make a statement. [34768]

Charles Hendry: The renewables obligation promotes the efficient use of biomass for electricity in two ways. Firstly, renewables obligation certificates are only rewarded for actual electricity generated, the less efficient the generation the less ROCs they will receive.

Secondly, the UK Government are introducing sustainability criteria for the use of solid and gaseous biomass (other than waste or wholly derived from waste) to generate electricity under the renewables obligation (RO) from April this year. These sustainability criteria include a minimum greenhouse gas emissions saving of 60% compared to fossil fuel assessed across a lifecycle that includes consideration of the energy conversion efficiency of the generating plant.

Following a transition phase, where solid and gaseous biomass plants over 50 kilowatts will be required to report on their performance against the criteria, from April 2013 biomass electricity plants of 1 megawatt and over will be required to meet these criteria in order to receive support under the RO.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the level of renewable energy needed to meet its EU 2020 target; and how much such energy it aims to generate from *(a)* nuclear, *(b)* carbon capture and storage coal, *(c)* onshore wind, *(d)* offshore wind, *(e)* tidal and *(f)* solar sources. [34837]

Charles Hendry: The UK has a target to generate 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. The Government are committed to achieving this target.

Recent analysis indicates that this will require overall renewable energy generation of 234 terawatt hours (TWh) across the electricity, heat and transport sectors, based on latest central projections of energy consumption for 2020 published June 2010.

Source:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/projections/projections.aspx

This does not include generation from nuclear or carbon capture and storage coal as these are not covered in the renewable energy directive.

Generation from specific renewable energy sources

For 2020, our modelling estimates that we may see the following levels of generation:

Onshore wind: 34TWh

Offshore wind: 44TWh

Tidal energy: around 4TWh of wave and tidal generation

Solar: up to 2TWh solar PV.

These are central estimates. The exact shares of effort between sectors and technologies will depend on how investors respond to the renewable financial incentives put in place, and the relative success in overcoming non-financial barriers to renewables deployment such as planning, supply chain and grid issues.

CCS

The Government are committed to continuing public sector investment in four CCS demonstration projects, this programme could deliver around 1.5GW of CCS generating capacity by 2020.

Nuclear Power

The draft revised National Policy Statements set out there is an urgent need for a diverse range of new energy infrastructure and for new nuclear power to be free to contribute as much as possible towards meeting the need for 18GW of new non-renewable capacity by 2025.

Renewable Energy: Wood

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the contribution of the wood panel industry to the production of renewable heat in each of the last five years. [34761]

Gregory Barker: In 2009, the wood panel industry is estimated to have produced 1,639 GWh of renewable heat, from 395,469 tonnes of wood. Data are not available for years preceding this. Industry as a whole produced approximately 4,501 GWh of renewable heat in 2009.

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has made an assessment of the life-cycle carbon balance of *(a)* processing wood and *(b)* electricity generation from wood; and if he will make a statement. [34762]

Charles Hendry: The Department has not made an assessment of the life cycle carbon balance of processing wood. However, I can confirm that the process itself is highly energy intensive; the wood panel industry is one of the most energy intensive industries in the UK

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
consult_carbon_price_support.htm

According to the results of the 4th target period assessment of the climate change agreements, the sector reported that 2,550,761,208 kWh of energy with 458,355 tonnes of CO_2 was used to produce 3,257,582m3 of wood panel. Their performance during this period was therefore 783 kWhp and 0.14 tonnes CO_2 per m3 of wood panel produced.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/What%20we%20do/
Global%20climate%20change%20and%20energy/Tackling
%20Climate%20Change/ccas/175-cca-4th-target.pdf

Estimates of the life-cycle carbon balance of electricity generation from wood are dependent on a number of factors; the size and efficiency of the energy generating plant, the forestry planting, rotation and harvesting cycle, and the method of collecting, transporting and processing the wood. Typical life cycle carbon balances have been estimated by the Environment Agency.

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/
Biomass__carbon_sink_or_carbon_sinner_summary_report.pdf

Their analysis shows that life-cycle emissions for electricity generated by clean waste wood or short rotation coppice chips can vary from 50-300 kg CO_2/MWh.

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* mechanism and *(b)* criteria his Department plans to apply to assess the sustainability of large-scale wood biomass energy plants of 50 megawatts and over; and if he will take into account the potential effects of such plants on (i) UK wood processing industries and (ii) UK wood markets. [34766]

Charles Hendry: We are introducing sustainability criteria for the use of solid biomass, including wood fuels, to generate electricity under the renewables obligation (RO) from April this year. These criteria include a minimum greenhouse gas emissions saving of 60% compared to fossil fuel and general restrictions on the use of materials from land important on carbon or biodiversity grounds. Following a transition phase, where solid biomass plants over 50 kilowatts will be required to report on their performance against the criteria, from April 2013, solid biomass electricity plants of 1 megawatt and above will be required to meet these criteria in order to receive support under the RO. The sustainability criteria will not apply to solid biomass that is waste or wholly derived from waste.

The same set of sustainability criteria will be applied to the use of UK and imported solid biomass, and to both new and existing plants.

These changes build on the existing requirement under the RO for biomass plants over 50 kilowatts to report to the best of the operator's knowledge and belief on a range of matters relating to the biomass used. These include the type and form of the biomass, its country of origin and whether the biomass is an energy crop or waste. This will provide valuable information on the biomass being used for large-scale electricity generation in the UK and the potential effects on the UK wood industries.

Our analysis of future UK bio-electricity supply takes into account the demand of the wood processing and other user industries for biomass feedstocks.

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* the effect on existing wood industries and *(b)* the sustainability of wood as a feedstock is taken into account in deciding whether to grant planning permission for large-scale biomass energy projects of 50 megawatts and over. [34767]

Charles Hendry: In respect of the effect on existing wood industries, commercial interests are not a relevant planning matter. In respect of the sustainability of wood as a feedstock, Government policy is that mechanisms beyond the planning system in the form of the renewables obligation are better placed to ensure the sustainability of fuel used in large-scale biomass electricity generating stations.

Sellafield: Plutonium

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department commissioned its cost-benefit analysis of constructing a new mixed oxide plutonium fuels plant in Sellafield; who is conducting the analysis; when the contract for the analysis was put out to tender; where the tender was advertised; what the monetary value of the contract is; and when he expects to receive the analysis. [34754]

Charles Hendry: DECC intends shortly to publish a public consultation on the options for the long-term management of the UK's civil plutonium. As part of the work supporting that consultation, the Government commissioned the NDA to examine the costs of the various options, which included the reuse of the plutonium to make MOX fuel. No external work has been commissioned at this stage. We anticipate that further analysis of the costs for a number of options will be necessary to support a final decision, which will only be taken following the consultation process.

Solar Power: Housing

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Department for Communities and Local Government on potential changes to building regulations to encourage the fitting of photovoltaic cells to new houses; and if he will make a statement. [34367]

Gregory Barker: There are regular discussions between DECC and the Department for Communities and Local Government on zero carbon homes policy. We remain committed to ensuring that new homes do not add to our carbon footprint but we do not want to impose new standards that dictate exactly how every home should be built. We are considering recommendations from an interim report from the zero carbon hub on what standards should be achievable onsite.

Waste Disposal: Storage

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what storage arrangements there are for high-level wastes; and what arrangements are planned for such storage prior to the construction of a geological disposal facility. [33905]

Charles Hendry: High level radioactive waste (HLW) arises as a liquid from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel and all the UK's current HLW is located at Sellafield where reprocessing takes place. Liquid HLW is stored at Sellafield in custom designed tanks before being immobilised in a passively safe, solid glass waste-form, through a process known as vitrification. The solid HLW is safely stored and monitored in a purpose built store at Sellafield pending return to overseas customers or final disposal in the proposed geological disposal facility. The UK has a strong and effective nuclear safety regulatory regime that ensures the safe storage and management of radioactive waste including HLW.

Wind Power

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many planning approvals for wind farms in England over the last year have not been proceeded with; and if he will make a statement. [34634]

Charles Hendry: 22 wind farm applications were approved in 2010. Of these, one is already operational, one is under construction and the remaining 20 are awaiting construction. The amount of time for wind farms to be completed following planning approval depends on various factors including planning conditions, the size of the wind farm and grid availability. We estimate that on average it takes about two years for a wind farm to become operational following planning approval.

Wind Power: Energy

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the average annual amount of energy to be generated by a wind turbine built under a round 3 deep water licence. [34838]

Charles Hendry: In 2009, UK offshore wind farms typically generated 2.95 GWh per MW of installed capacity over the course of the year. This is based on an unchanged configuration load factor[1] for offshore wind in 2009 of 33.7%.

It is expected that load factors[2] for offshore wind will increase over time, leading to greater efficiencies in the form of increased generation per MW of installed capacity. DECC analysis suggests the following range of load factor estimates for round 3 sites. These are based on the expected performance of turbines at UK offshore sites (based on real wind speed data from the Meteorological Office).

[1] 2009 offshore wind load factor from table 7.4 of the Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2010, available at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/renewables/renewables.aspx

[2] Load factor definition: the amount of actual generation as a proportion of the maximum possible generation in a given time period. Load factor on an 'unchanged configuration' is a load factor calculated using just those wind farms that have been operating continually, and with the same configuration, throughout the year. Further information on this measure can be found in Energy Trends, March 2006, pages 28 to 32 at:

http://decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/statistics/publications/trends/articles_issue/file43950.pdf

Load factor	*Percentage*
2009	33.7
Lower estimate	[1]37
Upper estimate	[2]42

[1] Based on the expected output of a 5MW turbine at Dogger Bank at availability of 90%.

[2] Based on expected output of offshore turbines averaged from 15 UK offshore sites at 85% availability. For comparison Horns Rev wind farm in Denmark is already achieving capacity factors of 43%.

It is expected that round 3 projects (which will be at varying depths) will achieve load factors in the region of 37-42%. This translates into generation of between 3.2 and 3.8 GWh per MW of installed capacity over the course of the year.

The main reasons for the increase are increased availability of the turbines (due to better operation and maintenance infrastructure and/or more reliable turbines) and better wind conditions as wind farms are located further offshore.

Note:

DECC statistics can be downloaded from:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/trends/articles_issue/articles_issue.aspx

EDUCATION

Aimhigher Programme

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of activities delivered under the Aimhigher programme for young people from low-income backgrounds wishing to go to university in each year since 2004 under the programme; and how many activities he expects to be delivered in the academic year 2011-12 following the end of the Aimhigher programme. [28594]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

Aimhigher is managed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). HEFCE have provided the following information on the number of activities undertaken by Aimhigher partnerships.

Data are not available on individual participants or before 2007-08.

The year 2007-08 was a pilot for gathering the number of activities and the information is based on 26 of the then 45 partnerships.

	Number of activities
2007-08	17,251
2008-09	26,442
2009-10	[1]46,028

[1] Figures for 2009-10 are not comparable with previous years due to a change in the way data was collected.

We have made no estimate of the number of activities that will be delivered in 2011-12.

Universities, schools and colleges have learned much from Aimhigher about 'what works'. Universities already use this to inform their own outreach activities covered by existing access agreements, agreed with the Office for Fair Access, and the widening participation strategic assessments they submit to HEFCE. Helping young people find out about higher education is a normal part of what schools do and schools will receive additional support through the pupil premium from April 2011.

Child Benefit

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the media statement by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families reported on 4 October 2010, what discussions the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families has had with *(a)* him and *(b)* HM Treasury Ministers on adjustment to Government proposals on child benefit for higher rate taxpayers. [30592]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 14 December 2010]:* I have frequent discussions with the Secretary of State and other Ministers about all aspects of my portfolio and related issues.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he undertook an equality impact assessment before making the decision to abolish the education maintenance allowance. [31275]

Mr Gibb: Discussions on distributional impacts, including impacts on equality, informed the process for spending review discussions and decisions, and this Department has worked closely with HM Treasury to assess the impact on different sections of society.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was paid to pupils in payments for reaching pre-agreed targets in addition to education maintenance allowance payments in each year for which figures are available; and how many pupils received such payments in each such year. [34349]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 January 2011]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education and manage the Capita contract. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Witham with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Young Offenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young offenders received education maintenance allowance payments in each year for which figures are available; and how much was paid to young offenders in such payments in each such year. [34350]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 January 2011]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education and manage the Capita contract. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Witham with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Family Intervention Projects

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of family intervention projects in *(a)* South Thanet constituency and *(b)* England. [24589]

Tim Loughton: Data from official statistics for intensive family interventions, published on 15 September 2010, show reductions in a number of issues at the end of the intervention compared to at the start, including reductions in school truancy, exclusions and poor behaviour at school; workless households; family functioning (poor parenting, family breakdown, domestic violence and child protection issues); crime and antisocial behaviour; and health issues (including drug and alcohol misuse and mental health problems). A more detailed analytical report looking at factors that can lead to successful outcomes is due to be published on the 25 November. The intensive family intervention service in Kent includes the South Thanet constituency. Our records show that, to date, five families have successfully completed an intervention and the service is currently working with another 10 families.

Further Education: Student Numbers

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many 14 and 15-year-olds study at further education or sixth-form college five days a week; and how many of these students are enrolled at *(a)* the college and *(b)* a local school. [32638]

Mr Gibb: Details of all students studying at further education or sixth-form colleges, including those aged under 16, is collected and made available by the Data Service. The number of 14 and 15-year-olds studying full-time during the 2009/10 academic year is shown in the following table.

Students aged 14 and 15 studying full time at an FE centre, including a sixth-form college, England, 2009/10

	Age 14	*Age 15*	*Total*
Full-time full-year	700	3,000	3,700
Full-time part-year	700	4,300	5,000
Total	1,300	7,400	8,700

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component figures because of the rounding.
2. Age 14 or 15 at the start of the academic year.

Source:
2009/10 Individualised Learner Record final L04 dataset.

However, information on where the student is actually enrolled is not collected and therefore it is not possible to provide details of whether these 14 and 15-year-old students were enrolled at the college or a local school.

Higher Education

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the influence of parental income on prospective higher education students' university choices; and if he will make a statement. [30461]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 December 2010]:* The Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills have discussed the changes to higher education funding and student finance at Cabinet. Statements to the House of Commons on this subject reflect the Government position, as agreed at Cabinet meetings.

Pupil Premium

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much additional funding schools in County Durham will receive from the pupil premium in the academic year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [31897]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* On 13 December, the Government announced that in 2011-12, the level of the pupil premium will be £430 per pupil and will be the same for every deprived pupil, no matter where they live. The pupil premium will be allocated to those pupils eligible for free school meals identified by the January 2011 census figures for pupils in years from Reception to Year 11. The premium will be funded by financial year not academic year. However, were the January 2010 census figures used then there would be a notional allocation for pupils in Durham of £6 million. This figure could rise or fall depending on the number of eligible pupils at January 2011, and is indicative only.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of pupils in East Staffordshire eligible for the pupil premium. [31979]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* We have made estimates of the number of pupils eligible for the pupil premium for each local authority, based on 2010 data. According to these estimates for Staffordshire, 13,250 pupils eligible for free school meals would attract the premium, as well as 485 children looked after by the local authority, and 315 children of service personnel. This totals 14,050 pupils eligible for the pupil premium in Staffordshire, attracting a pupil premium of £5.97 million in total. The actual level number of eligible pupils in Staffordshire and therefore the amount payable will be taken from the January 2011 school census.

Schools: Reading and Numeracy

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make it his policy to ensure that schools are able to exercise maximum choice in the way in which they support vulnerable primary school pupils to improve reading and numeracy skills. [23200]

Mr Gibb: We believe that schools are best placed to decide the most appropriate support for their pupils. Funding for Every Child a Reader and Every Child Counts forms part of the schools budget and it will be for local authorities, in consultation with their schools forum, to decide whether to take account of the previous level of this funding when making their 2011-12 allocations to schools.

The Pupil Premium will allocate funding for deprived pupils, which head teachers can decide how best to spend. However, the Government will be making available to schools the latest and best evidence and information on the activities, interventions and strategies that can help raise the attainment of those pupils who will benefit from the Pupil Premium.

There is evidence that the Every Child programmes have had a positive impact in raising the attainment of FSM pupils. All three programmes are currently undergoing independent evaluations, to report in late 2010-early 2011, which will give a substantive view of the impact of the programmes.

We are currently working through proposals for literacy and numeracy intervention beyond September 2011, which is subject to final decisions following the spending review.

Schools: Rural Areas

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that rural primary schools are not disadvantaged by local authority budget allocations deploying the Mosaic formula. [32576]

Mr Gibb: For 2011-12, we are continuing with the current methodology for funding local authorities and schools to allow for the clear and transparent introduction of the pupil premium. This means that local authorities will continue to be responsible, in consultation with their Schools Forums, for deciding how to allocate money between the schools they maintain. However, a minimum funding guarantee will apply so that no school will see a reduction in its budget compared with 2010-11 of more than 1.5% per pupil.

The pupil premium will be introduced from April 2011 and will be paid at the same rate £430 per deprived child across the country. The measure of deprivation we are using for the premium in 2011-12 will be children known to be eligible for free school meals as recorded in the Schools Census in January 2011.

Schools: Sports Pitches

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of all-weather sports pitches in use by *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [32077]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* No estimate has been made by the Department for Education of the number of all-weather sports pitches in use in schools in England.

Schools: Standards

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many specialist sports *(a)* schools and *(b)* colleges the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families has visited since his appointment; what assessment he made of the work of each such establishment; and if he will make a statement. [29057]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 6 December 2010]:* Since May 2010, I have visited 12 schools, where I have had the chance to see high quality PE and sport. None of the 12 schools has been a school or college with a specialism in sport. The purpose of visiting any educational institution is not to assess their work—that is the role of Ofsted—but to gain a greater insight into how they operate and deal with a variety of issues.

Schools: Waltham Forest

Dr Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department has allocated to *(a)* academies, *(b)* free schools and *(c)* local authority schools in the London borough of Waltham Forest for 2011-12. [32920]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 10 January 2011]:* On 13 December, the Department announced the school funding settlement for 2011-12 and the methodology for funding academies.

There is no figure currently available for how much funding will be allocated to Waltham Forest for academies and free schools as this will depend on how many academies and free schools there are in Waltham Forest in 2011-12.

We have published on our website the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Guaranteed Units of Funding (GUF) per pupil for all local authorities in England. In 2011-12, the GUF for Waltham Forest maintained schools will be £5,841.83. The final DSG allocations for local authorities will be based on the January 2011 pupil count and will be published in summer 2011.

JUSTICE

Appeals: Social Security Benefits

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applicants for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment support allowance whose claims were rejected had their appeal heard by the Tribunals Service within (i) three, (ii) four, (iii) five, (iv) six and (v) more than six months of the original decision to disallow the claim. [34295]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the time taken from the date of a disputed Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) decision for incapacity benefit and employment support allowance cases to the date of clearance by the Tribunals Service.

Number of weeks from DWP decision to TS appeal hearing

Clearance times 2009-10	*Date of DWP decision to tribunal hearing*	
Number of weeks	*Incapacity benefit*	*Employment support allowance*
Fewer than 4 weeks	0	4
Fewer than 8 weeks	92	253
Fewer than 12 weeks	1,172	2,245
Fewer than 16 weeks	3,724	5,658
Fewer than 20 weeks	6,057	8,154
Fewer than 24 weeks	8,101	10,102
Over 24 weeks	27,422	23,916

Notes:
1. Data are reported in four-week blocks and are not available in calendar months. Clearance refers to cases that were decided by a tribunal. Data are provided from the Tribunals Service's G2 system.
2. Includes dates of disputed decision (and appeal lodgement) provided by DWP and inputted by Tribunals Service into its processing system.

The Tribunals Service's target is to issue a final decision for 75% of Social Security and Child Support appeals within 16 weeks of receipt from the DWP. Incapacity benefit appeals take on average 11.81 weeks and employment support allowance appeals 9.2 weeks from the date of the original DWP decision to arrive at the Tribunals Service. The Tribunals Service is currently clearing 62% of incapacity benefit appeals and 65% of employment support allowance appeals within 16 weeks.

Performance below target has resulted from an unexpectedly high level of appeals, particularly against employment support allowance decisions. In response, the Tribunals Service has significantly increased its capacity and, nationally, 47% more Social Security and Child Support appeals were cleared in September 2010 compared to September 2009. Further capacity increases are in hand.

Court Closures

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects of proposed court closures on the level of fines and fees imposed and collected. [35034]

Mr Djanogly: The impact assessment accompanying the consultation response papers assumes that the court closure programme does not impact on service delivery. As the volume of work is not expected to rise or fall as a result of the court estate rationalisation programme and there is sufficient capacity at recipient courts to undertake work from closing courts, it is not anticipated that fines or fees imposed and collected will be significantly affected.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the level of savings to the public purse likely to accrue as a result of the closure of courts in Wales as announced on 14 December 2010. [35035]

Mr Djanogly: Across the spending review period, the estimated gross resource saving accruing from the closure of courts in Wales announced on 14 December is £2.4 million.

This gross resource saving figure reflects the position as at 14 December and excludes any savings on staff costs, maintenance costs and non-cash costs.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many representations he received on his proposed closure of courts in Wales; and how many such representations supported his proposals. [35036]

Mr Djanogly: Excluding responses to the consultation on a national level, there were a total of 217 responses to the consultation on the provision of court services in Wales. Of these, 12 related to the proposals across Wales, of which four were broadly supportive, five were generally opposed and three were neutral, and 205 were in respect of a particular court or courts.

Full details of the response to consultation are available in consultation paper CP HMCS 15/10, which can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cp15-10.htm

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable he has set for closure of the courts in Wales which were the subject of his announcement of 14 December 2010. [35037]

Mr Djanogly: I cannot confirm any closure dates at this time as implementation plans for closures are currently being developed by HMCS in discussion with staff and the judiciary. HMCS aims to confirm the proposed dates for closure in February.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of the maintenance backlog was for each court in Wales included in the consultation for court closures as at 14 December 2010. [35038]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to him of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1164W.

Dartmoor Prison

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future of HM Prison Dartmoor. [34311]

Mr Blunt: The role and functions of prisons is kept under regular review, taking into account a number of factors affecting the requirements of a fit for purpose custodial estate. Decisions on the long-term future of the estate, including Dartmoor prison, will be made in the light of the review of rehabilitation and sentencing and the need to provide a secure and modern prison estate, while improving efficiency and value for money.

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34597]

Mr Blunt: To achieve savings from its administrative estate, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is working towards the Government standard of eight square metres per person and 80% desking (eight desks to 10 members of staff) in those buildings where it is possible to do so. In buildings which are not suitable for flexible working, the MOJ is working towards providing a maximum of 10 square metres per person across its administrative estate.

There is currently 14.7m^2 and 1.2 desks per full-time employee across the estate and the MOJ is working to reduce this figure and ensure more efficient use of its property.

Homeworking is an option for all MOJ staff, provided that issues, such as health and safety obligations, insurance, furniture and equipment, confidentiality, business needs of the unit and regular contact, are fully addressed.

Fines and Debts

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with enforcement agencies on the procedures and regulatory framework for the collection of *(a)* fines and *(b)* outstanding debts; and if he will make a statement. [35025]

Mr Djanogly: HMCS officials regularly have discussions with enforcement agencies about improving HMCS enforcement procedures and will continue to do so.

Ford Prison

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners at HM Prison Ford have had all privileges withdrawn as a consequence of participation in the recent disturbances. [33432]

Mr Blunt: All the prisoners thought to have been involved in the recent disturbance have since been transferred out of HMP Ford, and therefore no prisoners currently there have had privileges withdrawn as a result.

A number of the prisoners identified as possible perpetrators were placed on report in accordance with prison rules and regulations. These adjudications have been opened but remanded for the police investigation to be concluded.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners involved in the recent disturbances at HM Prison Ford have been transferred to other prisons *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* for the remainder of their sentence; and to which prisons. [33433]

Mr Blunt: 86 prisoners have been transferred out of Ford as a result of the disturbance. This group of prisoners contains those identified as possibly involved and those moved because of damage to the accommodation. Where each of these prisoners completes their sentence will depend on individual risk assessments, and the outcome of the police and NOMS investigations.

The prisoners were moved to the following establishments:

Bedford
Peterborough
Winchester
Bullingdon
Hewell
Belmarsh
Wandsworth

Lewes
Camp Hill
Springhill.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there was any change in the level of resources provided to HM Prison Ford as a result of the £325 million reduction in his Department's budget for 2009-10 announced in June 2010. [35030]

Mr Blunt: The £325 million reduction to the Department's budget announced in May 2010, resulted in a resource reduction of £130,203 to HM Prison Ford.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he took on receiving the last Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board on HM Prison Ford. [35031]

Mr Blunt: As has been the practice for a number of years Ministers do not directly receive draft Independent Monitoring Board reports when the IMBs submit them. The reports are firstly submitted to the IMB Secretariat. Then NOMS officials prepare a draft response to all the points on which the individual IMBs have requested a response both directed to Ministers and NOMS. I then consider the reply and, having also examined the issues raised directly for Ministers, write to the Chair. At the time of the disturbance the Board had submitted its report and the draft response was being prepared. The report was available in Gold Command directing the incident at Ford, where I first saw it. It was confirmed to me that the report would form part of the documentation of the investigation into the incident. I will respond to the Chair of the IMB in February after I have been informed of the findings of the NOMS investigation report.

Legal Aid

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Leeds North West constituency applied for legal aid in each of the last five years. [34519]

Mr Djanogly: Applications for civil legal aid advice are made to individual providers, and we record the number of instances of advice provided, rather than the number of applications made. All applications are based on the Solicitor's location, which may not reflect where the client is based. Applications for civil legal aid representation are made to the Legal Services Commission. Not all applications are granted. The applications received for representation for the last five years in the requested areas is as follows:

Applications in Civil Rep

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Leeds North West constituency	76	63	34	39	55
England	182,187	177,309	161,206	171,492	187,738
England and Wales (total)	194,795	189,455	172,420	183,026	199,950

Legal Aid : Employment

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding the Legal Services Commission provided from the legal aid budget for legal help and representation on employment matters in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [34303]

Mr Djanogly: Legal aid expenditure on employment matters was £6.4 million in 2008-09. Of this, £6 million was spent on legal help and £0.4 million was spent on legal aid under a legal aid certificate which includes representation.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he intends to answer the letter sent to him by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 29 November 2010 with regard to Ms O Osei. [34753]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I replied to the right hon. Member on 11 January. I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Prisons: Drugs

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were charged for possession of *(a)* Class A and *(b)* Class B drugs in 2009-10. [34748]

Mr Blunt: Data on the number of prisoners charged for possession of drugs are not recorded centrally. To provide it would require a detailed investigation into each local prison record and so would incur disproportionate cost.

Recorded instead is the number of charges under the Prison Rules for possession of controlled drugs that are proved at adjudication, and the punishments then given. The data are collated and published on a calendar year basis in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics. Data for 2009 is available at:

www.justice.gov.uk/prisonandprobation.htm

Data for 2010 will not be available until mid-2011. Data are not differentiated between offences involving Class A and Class B drugs.

More serious offences such as possession with intent to supply will be referred to the police for investigation and prosecution and so are not included in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics.

Prisons: Employment

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average hourly wage is for those who undertake work in prison; [34906]

(2) how many paid work schemes are operating on the prison estate. [34907]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not held centrally and could only be obtained by contacting individual prison establishments at disproportionate cost.

Prison Service Order 4460 (Prisoners' Pay), a copy of which has been placed in the House Library, sets out minimum rates of pay and requires Governors (and Directors of contracted prisons) to devise local pay schemes that reflect regime priorities of their establishment. A snapshot survey of prisoner pay undertaken in 2007 indicated that the average weekly rate of pay for prisoners undertaking work and other activities was £9.60.

There is no recognised definition of the term "paid work schemes" for prisoners. Prisoners have access to a range of work depending on the local regime. These include cleaning, catering and laundry work, workshops producing goods for internal and external markets, and workshops run by contractors. Around 450 low risk prisoners in open prisons work outside in individual work placements.

Ford Prison: Security

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with *(a)* the Prison Officers' Association and *(b)* the Prison Governors' Association on security at HM Prison Ford in the last six months. [32943]

Mr Blunt: Ministers have had no formal discussions with either union about security issues at HMP Ford in the last six months. I spoke to representatives of the POA when I visited HMP Ford on 2 January.

Zahid Mubarek Inquiry

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many recommendations from the Zahid Mubarek Inquiry related to enforced cell sharing have been implemented; what targets have been set for the implementation of the remainder of those recommendations accepted by the Government; and if he will make a statement. [34571]

Mr Blunt: There are 15 recommendations from the Zahid Mubarek inquiry related to enforced cell sharing. Eight of these recommendations have been met in full. The work done on a further six of these recommendations has revealed that further action is either unnecessary or impractical. The remaining recommendation is that enforced cell sharing should be eliminated. The National Offender Management Service remains committed to this as a high priority, and it has been considered as part of each new capacity building programme and project. There is no target for the implementation of this recommendation. We are not in a position to create enough places to be able to address the problem of overcrowding, but remain committed to providing safe, decent and secure places for those in custody.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the effect of *(a)* the closure of (i) Ashwell and (ii) Lancaster Castle prisons and *(b)* the re-rolling of Morton Hall prison on the Government's timetable for implementation of recommendation 1 of the Zahid Mubarek Inquiry. [34572]

Mr Blunt: In line with recommendation one of the Zahid Mubarek inquiry, the elimination of enforced cell sharing remains a high priority for the National Offender Management Service.

Current headroom means that the closure of HMPs Lancaster Castle, Ashwell and Morton Hall, announced on 13 January, are not expected to impact on overall prison crowding levels.

HEALTH

Rheumatology Services

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many follow-up consultations for rheumatology services took place in the last 12 months. [33100]

Paul Burstow: Data on follow up appointments are not available specifically for rheumatology services.

Data published by the Department of Health looking on an all speciality basis show that the ratio of subsequent attendance (follow-up) to first out-patient appointment has remained broadly stable over the last three years at around two (subsequent attendances) to one (first out-patient appointment).

Source:

Department of Health Monthly Activity Return (MAR) and Quarterly Activity Return

Blood: Contamination

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Scottish Government, *(b)* Welsh Assembly Government and *(c)* Northern Ireland Executive on the outcome of the review of support for those affected by contaminated blood products in England; and if he will make a statement. [34991]

Anne Milton: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Wythenshawe and Sale East (Paul Goggins) on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 543W.

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors he took into consideration in the determination of the annual payment at £12,800 for people infected by contaminated blood products who have gone on to develop serious liver disease. [34992]

Anne Milton: The factors taken into account are explained in paragraphs 5.7-5.11 of the report of the "Review of the support available to individuals infected with hepatitis C and/or HIV by NHS-supplied blood transfusions or blood products and their dependants", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library.

Bone Marrow Donors

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an assessment of the optimum size of the British Bone Marrow Registry that is required to meet the needs of the NHS. [34480]

Anne Milton: The Department has not made an assessment of the optimum size of the British Bone Marrow Registry. However, as part of its work, the UK Stem Cell Strategic Forum, led by NHS Blood and Transplant, found that increasing the number of donors registered would not significantly increase the chances of United Kingdom patients identifying a matched unrelated adult donor.

Details of the Forum's findings on this issue can be found in Annex 4 of 'The Future of Unrelated Donor Stem Cell Transplantation in the UK' (a copy of the report has already been placed in the Library).

Cancer: Health Services

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what mechanism the review of the Cancer Reform Strategy will seek to improve men's cancer outcomes. [34772]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" sets out a range of actions to improve outcomes for all cancer patients, including men. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

We know that early diagnosis of cancer is crucial to improving outcomes. To tackle late diagnosis, the strategy sets out plans to improve general practitioner (GP) access to diagnostic tests, to support cancer awareness initiatives, to extend our cancer screening programmes and to introduce new screening technologies. The strategy also covers other outcomes, such as improving patient experience.

With specific reference to improving outcomes in men, the strategy provides an update on the work the Department has commissioned from the Men's Health Forum on improving uptake of bowel cancer screening, noting that a conference is to be held later this month to discuss the findings and to make recommendations to the screening service.

The strategy also notes that, following a public and stakeholder consultation, the United Kingdom National Screening Committee (UK NSC) has recommended that additional modelling work be undertaken for prostate specific antigen (PSA) screening of men in high risk groups, and that further education of GPs through the Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme (PCRMP) should also be taken forward. To ensure that men are well informed about the signs and symptoms of prostate cancer and empowered to request a PSA test if they want one, the UK NSC has asked the Prostate Cancer Advisory Group to explore options for making the PCRMP information more accessible to men.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 157-58W.

Care Quality Commission: Standards

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the *(a)* Care Quality Commission and *(b)* General Dental Council. [34313]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care, established by the Health and Social Care Act 2008. The Commission is accountable to the Secretary of State for discharging its functions, duties and powers effectively and economically.

The Department monitors CQC's financial and operational performance and risks at a strategic level through regular formal accountability meetings. It does not assess CQC's inspection or monitoring of individual providers. Regular meetings are also held between Ministers, the Permanent Secretary, the chief executive of the national health service and the chair and chief executive of CQC, as well as meetings at official level.

The General Dental Council is an independent, statutory body and the Secretary of State for Health has no formal role in assessing its performance. However, the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) makes an annual report to Parliament on the performance of health regulatory bodies, including the General Dental Council. CHRE's most recent report was laid before Parliament on 1 July 2010, and is available in the Library.

Carers: Bromsgrove

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the level of support provided by carers' centres in Bromsgrove constituency. [34554]

Paul Burstow: It is for councils to decide how they support carers' centres in their area.

In addition, central Government recognise the importance of carers and are keen to ensure that we focus on the key activities that will make the greatest impact on improving carers' lives. 'Recognised, valued and supported: Next steps for the Carers Strategy', published on 25 November 2010, sets out the priorities for action over the next four years. The four key priorities are:

> Supporting those with caring responsibilities to identify themselves as carers at an early stage, recognising the value of their contribution and involving them from the outset both in designing local care provision and in planning individual care packages;
>
> Enabling those with caring responsibilities to fulfil their educational and employment potential;
>
> Personalised support for carers and those they support, enabling them to have a family and community life;
>
> Supporting carers to remain mentally and physically well.

The Department will provide additional funding of £400 million to the national health service over the next four years to enable more carers to take breaks from their caring responsibilities.

The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12 says that:

> "It has not always been apparent how funding to support carers has been used in each PCT. The Spending Review has made available additional funding in PCT baselines to support the provision of breaks for carers. PCTs should pool budgets with local authorities to provide carers' breaks, as far as possible, via direct payments or personal health budgets. For 2011/12, PCTs should agree policies, plans and budgets to support carers with local authorities and local carers' organisations, and make them available to local people."

The Department have also made up to £6 million available for general practitioner (GP) training, to increase their awareness and understanding of carers' health needs so that they can receive appropriate support.

The Department for Education announced earlier in December that they are providing £800 million over the next four years for short breaks for parent carers of disabled children as part of the new Early Intervention Grant. The Government will be providing £198 million, £202 million, £206 million and £210 million for short breaks over the next four years. This figure includes the previously announced recycled Child Trust Fund money of at least £20 million each year. The Early Intervention Grant is not ring-fenced and it will be for local authorities to determine how they use that resource to best effect, including what services would be funded for families with disabled children.

Cataracts: Surgery

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is taking steps to ensure that visual acuity tests are not used to control access to cataract operations for patients. [34317]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trusts are responsible for service commissioning, taking into account the available evidence and the needs of the local population. The NHS Constitution gives patients a right to expect local funding decisions to be made rationally after a proper consideration of the available evidence.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Brighton and Hove

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the city of Brighton and Hove were diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis in each year since 2007. [34312]

Paul Burstow: This information is not collected centrally. However, the hon. Member may wish to contact Brighton and Hove Primary Care Trust directly for local information on the number of people diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis.

Cord Blood

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to increase the collection of blood stem cells from umbilical cords; [34452]

(2) what recent steps his Department has taken on the collection of umbilical cord stem cells; [34455]

(3) what recent representations he has received on increasing the provision of blood stem cells for transplants; [34484]

Anne Milton: The Department has agreed business plans with NHS Blood and Transplant (NHS BT), who manage the NHS Cord Blood Banking service to increase the size of the bank to 20,000 stored units by 2013. The units are available to all NHS patients.

In 2010, the Department commissioned a review of unrelated donor stem cell transplantation in the United Kingdom, including cost and health economic analysis. The UK Stem Cell Strategic Forum, led by NHSBT produced a report, "The Future of Unrelated Donor Stem Cell Transplantation in the UK" (copies of which have already been placed in the Library) on 1 December 2010.

The Government are currently considering the report and will be producing a formal response in due course.

Primary Care Trusts: Redundancy

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments to staff of primary care trusts under his proposals for reform of the NHS. [34892]

Mr Simon Burns: The costs of the proposals for reform to the national health service are contained in pages 11-14 of the co-ordinating document for the impact assessments and equality impact assessments, published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill on 19 January. The documents have been placed in the Library.

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34594]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government Property Unit mandates space standards for all Government Departments. The current space standard is eight square metres per employee.

All Department staff are eligible to apply for home working. However, staff cannot be compelled to work from home. Nor do they have an automatic right to home working which for existing and new staff is at management discretion based on guidance with Human Resources involvement.

All work desks in the Department's buildings can be used as hot-desks subject to directorate and other local needs. The Department has also made a number of designated corporate hot-desks available across its estate. These are used on a first come, first served basis.

Information on the Department's employees per desk and space per employee is published annually in the State of the Estate Annual Report. The last report was published in March 2010 and can be accessed at:

www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/SOFTE_brochure.pdf

Diabetes: Children

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of obese children aged under 10 years who had type 2 diabetes in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leicestershire and *(c)* Leicester in the latest period for which figures are available. [34388]

Paul Burstow: The information requested for Leicestershire and Leicester is not available.

In 2009 the national prevalence figure for obesity among children aged 2-10 years was 14.4 per cent%. In the same year there were 328 children in England aged 0-17 years with a recorded diagnosis of type 2 diabetes. An analysis combining the three elements requested at a national level is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Drugs: Care Homes

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to reduce the misuse of neuroleptic drugs in residential homes. [34931]

Paul Burstow: The Department is committed to taking action in support of a reduction in the overall use of antipsychotic drugs (including neuroleptics) for those with dementia in care homes and other settings by two thirds by November 2011. A reduction in the use of antipsychotics is included as one of four key priority areas for improving the quality of care for people with dementia and their carers in our new outcomes focused implementation plan for the National Dementia Strategy. The National Director for Dementia, Professor Alistair Burns is providing clinical leadership for the National Dementia Strategy and he is supporting the national health service and social care to safely reduce antipsychotic use and to drive up the quality of care provided overall. He is also leading work to ensure the development of focused training for all health and social care staff involved in dementia care.

Data collected as part of the national audit of dementia services commissioned by the Department will be used to drive progress in reducing prescribing rates for antipsychotic drugs. The audit is being undertaken by the NHS Information Centre and the first results are expected in spring 2011.

Healthcare Science

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for conducting the evidence-based, cost-benefit risk analysis which his Department plans to undertake to inform the appropriate model of regulation for the healthcare science work force. [34678]

Anne Milton: The cost-benefit risk analysis is expected to be carried out during spring 2011.

NHS Blood and Transplant Strategic Forum

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take in response to the recommendations of the NHS Blood and Transplant Strategic Forum on stem cell transplantation published in December 2010; [34499]

(2) what assessment he has made of the NHS Blood and Transplant Strategic Forum report on stem cell transplantation published in December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [34500]

Anne Milton: The Department welcomes the report of the UK Stem Cell Strategic Forum. We are now working in collaboration with the national health service, NHS Blood and Transplant and the Anthony Nolan Trust, to develop improved partnership working and consider how the findings and recommendations in the report can be best translated into real service improvements. The Government will produce a response in due course.

SHAs: Official Hospitality

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much strategic health authorities spent on hospitality in each year since 2006. [34558]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

NHS: Training

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days' mandatory training those working in the NHS are required to undertake each year; and for what purpose in each case. [33261]

Anne Milton: National health service employees are not required to undertake a set amount of mandatory training time every year. Information on this issue is not collected centrally or by strategic health authorities.

Responsibility to provide good outcomes for patients and staff in the areas of mandatory training such as fire safety, health awareness and manual handling, best resides with the individual employer.

For those NHS employees subject to statutory professional regulation, there may be specific continuing professional development requirements that they need to meet in order to maintain their registration. These requirements are set by the independent professional regulators and differ across the professions.

SHAs: Visits Abroad

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much strategic health authorities spent on overseas travel since 2006. [34559]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

Prescription Charges

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms he has put in place to ensure that those claiming free prescriptions are in possession of valid medical exemption certificates where required. [34316]

Mr Simon Burns: Free prescriptions may be claimed for a number of reasons.

Patients who want a medical exemption certificate are required to apply to the NHS Business Services Authority. Applications must be countersigned by the general practitioner (GP), hospital or service doctor, or at the GPs discretion a member of the practice staff who has access to the relevant patient records. Medical exemption certificates are valid for five years, after which they must be renewed.

When a prescription is dispensed, pharmacists are required to carry out a "point of dispensing" check of whether the patient has a valid exemption from prescription charges. If the patient does not present the required evidence, a prescription can still be dispensed free of charge, but the pharmacist is required to cross the "evidence not seen" box on the prescription form, in order that checks can be made at a later stage. If a patient does not provide evidence of exemption when the prescription is dispensed, he or she may subsequently be randomly selected for verification checks (by the primary care trust, local counter fraud section). At this point the patient would need to provide the relevant evidence or possibly face a penalty charge.

Social Services: Learning Disability

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve the provision of support services for children and adults with learning difficulties in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* nationally. [34771]

Paul Burstow: The Government remain committed to driving change for adults and children with learning disabilities. Valuing People Now has set priorities until March 2011 of improving outcomes for adults with learning disabilities and their family carers around health, housing and employment. The Government will continue for the future to drive greater personalisation and improved choice and control to improve outcomes for people with learning disabilities and will work with people with learning disabilities and their family carers to ensure that their views are included in the future transformation of the national health service and the new social care vision and across other policies like employment and housing.

The Department is collaborating with the Department for Education ahead of the publication of the Green Paper on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The Green Paper will explore how we can achieve public services which are centred on the needs of families and children, joining up support from education, health and social care, particularly for those with the most severe and complex needs and at key transitions.

NHS West Midlands undertook a review of Child and Young People Disability Services last year, including learning disabilities. Following these reviews each primary care trust developed an action plan with the local authority. Progress is currently being reviewed.

Stem Cells: Medical Treatments

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average length of time after submission of a donor search request was for a blood stem cell transplant to be undertaken by the NHS in respect of each ethnic group in the latest period for which figures are available; [34445]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average time from submission of a blood stem cell transplant donor search request and a transplant taking place with respect to *(a)* the British Bone Marrow Registry, *(b)* the Anthony Nolan register and *(c)* imported sources in the latest period for which figures are available. [34483]

Anne Milton: As part of its work, the UK Stem Cell Strategic Forum, led by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) examined in detail donor search to transplant times. The Government are currently considering the Forum's report and recommendations and will produce a response in due course.

Data from the British Bone Marrow Registry, run by NHSBT, show an average (mean) time of 160 days (median time of 135 days) between a donor search request and a stem cell transplant being carried out. It is important to note that this period of time can be affected by a wide range of factors, including changes in the health of patients. The data are not broken down by ethnic group.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS patients waiting for a blood stem cell transplant died in each of the last five years; [34477]

(2) how many blood stem cell transplants were conducted by the NHS in each of the last two years; [34479]

(3) how many blood stem cell transplants were conducted by the NHS using donors *(a)* on the British Bone Marrow Registry, *(b)* on the Anthony Nolan register and *(c)* from abroad in each of the last five years. [34482]

Anne Milton: Data on the number of blood stem cell transplants conducted by the national health service and the number of NHS patients that die waiting for a blood stem cell transplant are not collated centrally.

The following table shows the number of initial stem cell transplants (although in some cases further transplants are needed) conducted in the United Kingdom in 2008 and 2009. Data are not yet available for 2010.

Stem Cell Source	*2008*[1]	*2009*[1]
Patient-derived stem cells (autologous)	1,560	1,623
Related donor-derived stem cells	523	451
Unrelated donor-derived stem cells	563	661
Cord blood stem cells	84	88
Total	2,730	2,823

[1] Figures collated by British Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BSBMT). It is important to note that submission of the data by member transplant centres is voluntary, and therefore may not be completely comprehensive.

The following table shows the total number of stem cell donors (including cord blood) provided by registry.

	Imported[1]	*BBMR*[2]	*AN*[3]
2006	212	66	202
2007	319	65	221
2008	357	59	215
2009	485	77	230
2010	505	67	233

[1] Data provided by Anthony Nolan.

[2] Data provided by NHS Blood and Transplant, which is responsible for the British Bone Marrow Registry.

[3] Data provided by Anthony Nolan.

Note:

Figures given for donors provided include 2nd transplants, and donations not transplanted due to factors such as deterioration in the health of the patient.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the average cost to the NHS of importing blood stem cells for transplantation; [34478]

(2) how many blood stem cell transplant donations were imported from each country in the last year for which figures are available. [34485]

Anne Milton: In 2010, the Department commissioned a review of unrelated donor stem cell transplantation in the United Kingdom, including cost and health economic analysis. The UK Stem Cell Strategic Forum, led by NHS Blood and Transplant produced a report, 'The Future of Unrelated Donor Stem Cell Transplantation in the UK' (copies of which have already been placed in the Library) on 1 December 2010.

Annex 4 of the report states that in 2009, the following adult stem cell donations, as shown in the table, were imported to the UK.

Country	*Number imported*	*Cost per donation (£)*
Germany (ZKRD)	187	10,500
United States (US) (NMDP)	131	17,222
Australia	11	13,500
France	8	11,273
Canada	7	16,451
Israel	7	12,903
Cyprus	6	15,000
Portugal	6	11,363
Italy	5	11,902
Other	18	—

Annex 4 of the report states that in 2009, the following umbilical cord blood units, as shown in the following table, were imported to the UK.

Country	*Number imported*	*Cost per donation (£)*
US (NMDP)	33	36,000
US (New York)	16	23,000
Barcelona	14	19,593
Dusseldorf	13	18,286
Other	13	—

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the difference is in the number of projected deaths from swine flu between the Government's vaccination policy and a policy to vaccinate all those aged under five. [34940]

Anne Milton: The Government's policy on influenza vaccination is informed by the expert advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The policy focuses on offering the vaccine to those at greatest risk from the effects of influenza. JCVI does not recommend that children under the age of five outside the at-risk groups should be vaccinated.

On 30 December, JCVI met to review its advice on seasonal influenza vaccination. It issued the following statement:

> "JCVI was presented with data on the current seasonal influenza epidemiology, seroepidemological data collected during the 2009-10 pandemic, modelling of the impact of vaccination strategies during the pandemic, data on the effectiveness of influenza vaccines in the young and vaccine uptake and safety data.
>
> JCVI noted that a large proportion of those individuals with severe disease are in recognised risk groups for influenza but were not vaccinated. JVCI re-iterated its previous advice that all individuals in risk groups should be vaccinated as soon as possible, particularly those aged less than 65 years.
>
> The committee considered the issue of offering vaccination to healthy children either 0-4 years and/or 5-15 years of age. However, although there is a high incidence of influenza-like illness currently in these age groups, a significant proportion of this is due to other viruses such Respiratory Syncytial Virus. In addition, only a very small proportion of those with severe disease are in these age groups. Based on previous seasonal influenza epidemiology it would be hoped that influenza circulation will have subsided within a month. We do not believe that seasonal or pandemic vaccine should be used for these or other healthy person groups. The greatest gain will be achieved in increasing vaccine uptake in the clinical risk groups."

No projections have been made of the number of deaths from swine influenza infection that may be prevented during the current influenza season by the current vaccination policy or an extension of that policy to include children under five years of age or other healthy age groups. Such projections, if conducted, would be highly uncertain as they would depend on a number of factors that are unknown or uncertain including, the existing immunity to swine influenza infection in different age groups of the population, the vaccination coverage in different groups of the population and how quickly immunity would accrue in these groups, and the effectiveness of vaccination.

As with all vaccination programmes, JCVI will keep this matter under review.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that increasing the speed of decision-making on family asylum cases will not affect the fairness and effectiveness of such decisions. [34875]

Damian Green: The Asylum Improvement Project, which was established by the Government in the summer, is exploring new ways to improve the asylum system to speed up the processing of all applications, including family applications, while improving the quality of decision making, achieving greater productivity and efficiency in the asylum process and better, more sustainable, decisions.

We are also reviewing the decision making process for family cases as part of the review into ending the detention of children for immigration purposes and we are working with corporate partners to improve the process.

Asylum: Children

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers who arrived in the country as unaccompanied minors and have been removed or detained with a view to removal in the last 12 months had been living in the UK for more than *(a)* three, *(b)* five and *(c)* 10 years. [34162]

Damian Green: A breakdown of the requested information is listed as follows:

Time resident in United Kingdom	*UASC and former UASC removed*[1, 2]	*Former UASC detained*[1, 2, 3, 4]
0 to 3 years	124	137
3 to 5 years	65	38
5-10 years	86	19
10+ years	5	4
Total	280	198

[1] UASC stands for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

[2] Time period covered, 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010.

[3] Data exclude detained individuals subsequently removed.

[4] Of the 198 individuals detained, none were under 18-years-old.

Notes:

1. All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change.
2. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Borders: Personal Records

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress she has made on the e-Borders programme. [34777]

Damian Green: Since the e-Borders contract with Raytheon Systems was terminated in July 2010, the e-Borders programme has been pursuing a strategy to secure existing live systems and assets and to procure services to replace those due under the original contract. The contract with IBM for the Semaphore system was novated to UKBA on 25 November 2010 and the Programme is on course to meet the Home Office Business plan target to transition remaining services from Raytheon Systems Ltd by April 2011.

We have engaged with a number of alternative providers to deliver the key benefits that the contract with Raytheon did not deliver. Work in designing the system capability to provide that benefit is now under way.

E-Borders is currently covering around 55% of passenger and crew movements into and out of the UK.

Detainees

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women entered the detained fast track procedure in each year since 2005; and what proportion of (i) men and (ii) women entering the detained fast track procedure were granted leave to remain in each such year. [34912]

Damian Green: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Applications accepted into the detained fast track process and percentage granted leave broken down by gender by year of application 2005-10

	Accepted	Granted (percentage)
2005[1]		
Male	1,754	8
Female	381	12
Total	2,135	8
2006		
Male	1,565	7
Female	463	15
Total	2,028	9
2007		
Male	897	5
Female	523	12
Total	1,420	8
2008		
Male	1,283	7
Female	517	13
Total	1,800	9
2009		
Male	1,674	7
Female	510	11
Total	2,184	8
2010		
Male	2,061	7
Female	531	11
Total	2,592	8

[1] 2005 data pre-dates the current Asylum Process so there may be limitations to data quality.

Note:

All figures are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Detainees: Sexuality

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to adding complex sexuality-related persecution claims to the list of claims unlikely to be accepted in the suitability guidance note for routing into the detained fast track procedure. [34911]

Damian Green: Entry to the detained fast track procedure is determined by reference to published policy available on the UKBA website. There are no plans to exclude applicants from the detained fast track process because their claims appear to relate to complex sexuality-related persecution.

However, there is an existing condition in published policy that cases may enter the process only if they are amenable to a quick, fair and sustainable decision. If, at the time of application, it is apparent that this condition cannot be fulfilled the applicant will not be entered into the process.

Entry Clearances: Appeals

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the average cost of an appeal against refusal of entry clearance. [33734]

Damian Green: The cost of immigration appeals is split between the Tribunals Service and UKBA. The majority of the cost falls to the Tribunals Service.

Most recent UKBA estimates (2009-10) suggest the cost of an appeal against refusal of entry clearance ranges typically between £200 and £500 per case. This unit will vary depending on the complexity of the case, with family visit visa appeals generally falling towards the lower end of this estimate.

The most recent estimate (2008-09) from the Tribunals Service indicate that a family visit visa appeal costs, on average, £504 and an appeal against other entry clearance decisions costs, on average, £577. These unit costs are based upon a broad estimate for the average cost and as such will vary depending upon the complexity of individual cases.

Entry Clearances: Families

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for family visitor visas there were in each year since 1997; how many of those were granted in each such year; how many times appeals were raised against refusals of such applications in each year; how many of those appeals were upheld in each year; and what her most recent estimate is of the average cost to her Department of such an appeal in the latest period for which figures are available. [33805]

Damian Green: With regard to family visit visas, the number of *(a)* applications received; *(b)* visas issued; *(c)* appeals received; and *(d)* appeals allowed, in each calendar year since 2004, is shown in the following table. This information is not available for previous years.

The cost of immigration appeals are split between the Tribunals Service and UKBA. The majority of the cost falls to the Tribunals Service.

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Family visit visas

	Applications received	*Visas issued*	*Appeals received*	*Appeals allowed*
2004	354,217	248,153	29,697	5,685
2005	457,479	331,099	35,724	8,804
2006	502,032	376,375	57,540	18,328
2007	473,797	354,338	62,609	18,081
2008	414,695	313,392	55,965	19,663
2009	426,846	332,817	53,882	20,216
January to September 2010	423,251	350,677	37,657	16,802

Notes

1. These data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.
2. Data prior to 2007 may not be complete.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals against refusal of entry clearance were lodged by those who had applied for student visas in each year since 2000; and how many of those appeals were upheld in each year. [33735]

Damian Green: The number of appeals against the refusal of student visas that were (a) lodged and (b) allowed, in each calendar year since 2004, is shown in the following table. This information is not available for previous years.

	Appeals lodged	*Appeals allowed*
2004	13,315	478
2005	14,181	2,202
2006	25,141	6,562
2007	33,067	7,452
2008	37,125	8,052
2009	[1]19,699	[2]9,645

[1] Since March 2009, long-term student applications have been considered under tier four of the points-based system and do not attract a full right of appeal. However, an unsuccessful applicant is able to lodge an appeal on residual grounds, namely under provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 and Race Relations Act 1976.

[2] The figures show that in 2009, a total of 9,645 appeals in this category were allowed. Many of the decisions to which these appeals relate are likely to have been made in 2008 when there was a significant increase in long-term student applications prior to the introduction of the points-based system.

Notes:

1. This data is based on Management Information. It has not been published and should be treated as provisional.
2. The data before 2007 may not be complete.

Fixed Penalties

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notice categories have replaced comparable criminal offence categories in the last five years. [34362]

James Brokenshire: No fixed penalty notices (FPN) for motoring offences categories have replaced comparable offence categories in the last five years. There are around 200 fixed penalty traffic offences and for every one of these the police have the option of prosecuting rather than issuing a FPN.

Statistics on fixed penalty notices issued, broken down by offence category are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Powers and Procedures, 2008/09" and statistics on prosecutions for motoring offences are published in the supplementary volumes of Justice Publication "Criminal Statistics—2008/09". Copies of both publications are available in the Library of the House.

The only offence that has been added to the penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme for non-motoring offences in the last five years is the offence of cannabis possession which was added on 28 January 2009. Currently there are 25 other offences available under the scheme. A full list of PND offences can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/penalty-notices/penalty-notice-introduction11

All offences available under the scheme can still attract all existing disposals. PNDs are just one of a number of options available to the police which range from an informal warning, to a formal out-of-court disposal, to charging a suspect and prosecuting them at court. The nature and the seriousness of the offence, the harm caused and the offender's circumstances and previous criminal history will all be relevant to the police officer's decision on the most appropriate criminal justice response.

Statistics on PNDs issued, broken down by offence category are published in the Ministry of Justice Criminal Statistics: England and Wales 2009 and can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminalannual.htm

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she intends to answer the letter sent to her by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 2 December 2010 with regard to Mrs B H Hamah-Ahmeen. [34752]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 18 January 2011.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 21 January 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Green Investment Bank

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) for what reason new nuclear power plants were included in the target subsectors in his Department's invitation to tender for the specification for the Green Investment Bank product research published in late 2010; [34580]

(2) what assessment he has made of the extent to which the support for new nuclear power provided by the Green Investment Bank is compatible with the Government's policy on public subsidy for new nuclear power. [35352]

Mr Prisk: Officials are continuing work on the Green Investment Bank's (GIB) form, remit and function, and our conclusions will be published in May. Decisions will be informed by current work to model and test possible products which the GIB could offer over the longer term.

Decisions have not yet been taken on the GIB's remit and whether or not to include nuclear within it. Any GIB products for nuclear will be consistent with the Government's policy that there will be no levy, direct payment or market support for electricity supplied or capacity provided by a private sector new nuclear operator, unless similar support is also made available more widely to other types of generation.

Higher Education Innovation Fund

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much Higher Education Innovation Fund funding *(a)* has been allocated to each higher education institution in each of the last five years and *(b)* he expects to allocate to each higher education institution in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [35488]

Mr Willetts: Allocations to individual institutions are a matter for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). The following documents give the allocations for each institution in the last five years:

2006/07 to 2007/08:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2006/06_30/06_30a.xls

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2006/06_30/06_30c.xls

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2006/06_30/06_30d.xls

2008/09 to 2010/11:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2008/08_34/08_34b.xls

The allocation of science and research funding 2011/12 to 2014/15 published on 20 December 2010, confirmed that total higher education innovation funding (HEIF) will be maintained in cash terms at £150 million per annum over the spending review period. HEFCE will rapidly reform HEIF to increase incentives for performance. Funding for individual institutions will be determined by HEFCE.

Higher Education: Liverpool

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students in higher education are normally resident in Liverpool, West Derby constituency. [35281]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) shows 2,730 students enrolled at UK Higher Education Institutions were from Liverpool, West Derby constituency in the 2009/10 academic year. This covers students on both full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate courses. The equivalent information for students studying higher education courses at further education colleges is not available.

Office for Fair Access

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to give new powers to the Office for Fair Access to monitor university access agreements. [34946]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 20 January 2011]:* The director of fair access at the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) is responsible for approving universities' and colleges' access agreements to safeguard access to higher education.

On 7 December I published draft guidance to the director of fair access setting out my expectations and suggestions as to how the director might approach the approval and monitoring of institutions' access agreements. Final guidance will be published shortly.

The basic and higher levels of graduate contribution are changing from 1 September 2012. Much more public funding will be reaching universities via students, supported by up-front loans from the public purse. These changes are significant, and we want to monitor their effects carefully. The draft guidance to the director of fair access therefore asks him to review access agreements annually, rather than every five years as at present.

We will be publishing a White Paper on higher education reforms during the early part of this year. As part of that we will consider if changes are needed to strengthen the role of the director of fair access further.

Office for Fair Access: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff are employed by the Office for Fair Access; how many were so employed in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [34945]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 20 January 2011]:* In each of the last three years the Office for Fair Access has employed four staff, including the director.

Overseas Trade: Middle East

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value of *(a)* exports and *(b)* imports, including the monetary value of tourism, between the UK and (i) Lebanon, (ii) Syria, (iii) Jordan, (iv) Egypt and (v) Israel in the last year for which figures are available. [35164]

Mr Prisk: Overseas trade statistics data for UK trade in goods with the named countries are shown in the following table:

	UK exports of goods 2009	*£ million* *UK imports of goods 2009*
Lebanon	342	34
Syria	147	77
Jordan	245	40
Egypt	945	656
Israel	1,099	1,047

Table 9.13 of the UK Balance of Payments "Pink Book" gives the following figures for UK trade in services with the named countries:

	UK exports of services 2009	*£ million* *UK imports of services 2009*
Lebanon	83	32
Syria	54	19
Jordan	106	42
Egypt	595	706
Israel	527	324

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not publish separate travel services data for these countries in the "Pink Book", but tables 2.10 and 3.10 of "Travel Trends" give the following figures for spending in the UK by overseas residents, and UK residents' spending abroad:

	Spending in the UK by visitor's country of residence 2009	*£ million* *UK residents' spending abroad by country of visit 2009*
Egypt	78	436
Israel	117	85
Other Middle East	675	302

Note:
'Other Middle East' covers:
Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and the Yemen.

Research: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to link future allocations of research degree supervision grant to research quality rather than volume; and if he will make a statement. [35490]

Mr Willetts: The "Allocation of Science and Research Funding 2011-15" published on 20 December 2010, available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2010/Dec/science-research-and-hefce-funding

confirmed that the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) will reform funding provided to support the next generation of researchers to reward internationally excellent research quality. This also takes forward a recommendation in the review of postgraduate education, published in 2010. It will be for the HEFCE Board to determine how to achieve this.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many doctoral training centres his Department has funded in each of the last five years and at which institutions; how many such centres he expects to fund in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [35491]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills provides funding to the research councils which in turn may decide to provide funding for doctoral training centres.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is currently funding 77 doctoral training centres; an institutional breakdown is appended at the end of my answer. A breakdown of funding is as follows:

In the years prior to 2007/08, EPSRC funded 34 doctoral training centres in areas of engineering and life sciences interfaces.

In 2008/09 EPSRC launched a significant call for new centres (and including renewal of some of the previously funded centres) which led to the funding of 46 new (now designated) centres for doctoral training (CDTs) starting in October 2009.

These centres were augmented in 2009/10 with an additional seven new centres starting in October 2010.

Seven more centres in manufacturing and ICT to start during 2011 have recently gained approval by EPSRC.

The council's plans for CDTs beyond October 2011 are under discussion.

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), as part of the new postgraduate training framework, has recently announced the funding of 21 doctoral training centres, to start from October 2011, over five years. An institutional breakdown appended at the end of my answer. The ESRC has not previously commissioned doctoral training centres.

EPSRC centres for doctoral training portfolio, January 2011

Universities with CDTs	*Number of centres*
Cranfield University	1
Durham University	1
Heriot-Watt University	1
Imperial College London	6
Lancaster University	2
Loughborough University	2
Newcastle University	1
Queen Mary, University of London	1
Swansea University	1
The University of Manchester	5
University College London	9
University of Bath	2
University of Birmingham	4
University of Bristol	6
University of Cambridge	2
University of Edinburgh	1
University of Glasgow	1
University of Leeds	3
University of Nottingham	4
University of Oxford	4
University of Reading	1
University of Sheffield	3
University of Southampton	3
University of St Andrews	1
University of Strathclyde	3
University of Surrey	2
University of Warwick	5
University of York	2
Total centres	77

ESRC doctoral training centres starting in October 2011

Lead HEI	*Collaborating HEI*
University of Birmingham	
South West Consortium (Lead: University of Bristol)	University of Bath
	University of Exeter
University of Cambridge	
Wales Consortium (Lead: Cardiff University)	Aberystwyth University
	Bangor University
	Swansea University
North East Consortium (Lead: Durham University)	Newcastle University
Scottish Consortium (Lead: University of Edinburgh)	Heriot-Watt University
	University of Aberdeen
	University of Dundee
	University of Glasgow
	University of St Andrews
	University of Stirling
	University of Strathclyde
University of Essex	
Bloomsbury Consortium (Lead: Institute of Education)	Birkbeck College
	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
	School of Oriental and African Studies
King's College London	
North West Consortium (Lead: University of Liverpool)	Lancaster University
	The University of Manchester
London Business School	
London School of Economics and Pol Sci	
University of Nottingham	
University of Oxford	
White Rose Consortium (Lead: University of Sheffield)	University of Leeds
	University of York
University of Southampton	
South East Consortium (Lead: University of Surrey)	Royal Holloway, Univ of London
	University of Kent
	University of Reading
University of Sussex	
Queen Mary, University of London	Goldsmiths College
University College London	
University of Warwick	

Retirement Homes: Unfair Practices

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the Office of Fair Trading to conclude its investigation into the use of contract terms requiring the owners of retirement homes to pay fees on the sale or disposal of their properties; and if he will make a statement. [35165]

Mr Davey: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) expects to make an announcement about the next steps for the case in the spring. It is taking forward this investigation as efficiently and fairly as possible.

If the OFT concludes that some firms have used terms that are unfair for the purposes of the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999, it may obtain suitable commitments from the firms it is investigating to address its concerns. This would enable the investigation to be concluded more speedily. However, given the range and complexity of the issues, there is no guarantee that a resolution will be achievable on this basis. If the OFT decides to take court action, such action will take time to reach a conclusion.

Royal Mail: Pay

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* annual salary and *(b)* related monetary incentives are to be paid to the chief executive of Royal Mail; and what discussions there were between officials of his Department and HM Treasury on this matter. [33822]

Mr Davey: Royal Mail's remuneration committee has set Moya Greene's remuneration package following discussions with the Department and the Treasury. Full details of her remuneration for 2010-11, including any performance bonus payments, will be published in Royal Mail's annual report and accounts alongside that for all other directors of the company.

Whisky: Exports

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to discuss trade tariffs on Scotch whisky with his international counterparts for the purposes of increasing the level of exports. [34845]

Mr Davey: UK Ministers regularly raise tariff and other market access issues, including those of concern to the Scotch whisky industry, when meeting their international counterparts. In addition reductions in global tariffs are being sought in the Doha trade round negotiations and at a bilateral level in EU Free Trade Agreement negotiations.

CABINET OFFICE

Community Development

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what assessment he has made of the change in the level of social capital over the last 30 years; [35232]

(2) what mechanisms his Department has in place to assess the level of social capital within communities; [35233]

(3) what research his Department has commissioned on social capital in communities in the last five years; [35231]

(4) what assessment he has made of social capital levels within each socio-economic grouping. [35812]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions.

The Office for National Statistics undertook a Social Capital Project between 2002 and 2005 to look at the measurement of this concept. A range of outputs were published, including an article examining trends in social capital over time, by location and through different sub-groups of the population. A set of harmonised questions for official surveys were also produced and these outputs are all available on the ONS website.

Social capital is one of the potential components of National Well-being and this will be considered as part of the Measurement of National Well-being programme that the Office for National Statistics is currently taking forward.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the rate of electoral registration was in each of the *(a)* 100 most deprived wards and *(b)* 100 least deprived wards in the latest period for which figures are available. [35230]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the rate of electoral registration was in each of the (a) 100 most deprived wards and (b) 100 least deprived wards in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available (35230).

ONS does not have the information available to identify the 100 most and 100 least deprived wards in the UK. The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) are available for each of the UK constituent countries, but a single UK measure is not appropriate and ward level information is no longer produced. Furthermore, population estimates by ward are required to give an approximation of the electoral registration rate. These are not available for Scotland.

Government Departments: Publicity

Phil Wilson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which national publicity campaigns have been cancelled since the general election; and what cost to the public purse was incurred in each such case. [33790]

Mr Maude: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 17 January 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions 33790 regarding the cancellations of national publicity campaigns.

A record of all national publicity campaigns is not held centrally and this information could only be made available at disproportionate cost.

Of the campaigns commissioned through the Central Office of Information since the General Election in 2010, none have been cancelled that have incurred a cost to the public purse.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Redundancy Pay

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2010, Official Report, column 1222W, on ministerial policy advisers: redundancy pay, when he expects to publish details of severance payments made to special advisers in each department made redundant at the general election. [34195]

Mr Maude: The total cost of severance payments made to special advisers made redundant at the last general election was published in the Prime Minister's written ministerial statement on special adviser numbers and cost on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 19-23WS. It would not be appropriate to detail the costs by Department in order to protect the privacy of individuals.

Sure Start Programme: Hammersmith and Fulham

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what communications there have been between the Cabinet Office and Hammersmith and Fulham council on Sure Start programmes since the local government finance settlement was announced. [34368]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office has had no discussions with Hammersmith and Fulham council on the Sure Start programme.

Voluntary Work: Regulation

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to reduce the regulatory burden on volunteers. [33757]

Mr Maude: In order for us to create the Big Society, it is essential that we do what we can to encourage social action and reduce barriers to people volunteering.

The Office for Civil Society and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) have established a joint red tape task force. Headed by Lord Hodgson, the task force will make recommendations to reduce the bureaucratic burdens on civil society organisations, including those involving volunteers. It is due to report to Cabinet Office and BIS Ministers shortly.

In addition the Home Office and Department for Education (DfE) are currently reviewing the criminal records and vetting and barring regimes with the aim of scaling them back to common sense levels. The Office for Civil Society has been working with the Home Office and DfE to ensure that the impact of checks on volunteers is taken into account.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Councillors: Pay

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to reduce the number of local council employees who receive salaries higher than that of the Prime Minister. [33644]

Robert Neill: The salaries of local authority chief executives are for each local authority employer to determine in the light of local circumstances. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has called for the most senior local government officers to consider a voluntary reduction in pay and also suggested that no new council chief executive should be paid more than the Prime Minister.

The Government's view is that there needs to be greater local democratic accountability and transparency over senior remuneration arrangements and policies in local government. To achieve this, we have introduced provisions in the Localism Bill to ensure that councillors are better able to be held to account for their decisions on senior pay by requiring full council to agree and publish a senior pay policy statement. This will form the framework within which decisions on senior remuneration can be made transparently by the authority.

The Government intend to publish and consult on a draft code of recommended practice for local authorities on data transparency shortly, including salary disclosure. Will Hutton has been commissioned by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to conduct an independent review of fair pay in the public sector, reporting back in March.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Sky Broadcasting

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent discussions he or officials of his Department have had with representatives of *(a)* News Corp and *(b)* BSkyB on the potential takeover of BSkyB by News Corp; [34012]

(2) whether he has sought advice on *(a)* sharing information and *(b)* holding discussions with representatives of (i) News Corp and (ii) BSkyB on the recommendations of Ofcom on a possible takeover of BSkyB by News Corp prior to his decision on whether to refer the matter to the competition authorities; [34013]

(3) when he expects to publish the advice of Ofcom on the possible takeover of BSkyB by News Corp. [34014]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: On 31 December 2010 I received Ofcom's report on the public interest issues relating to the News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB. In taking my decision about whether to refer this proposed acquisition to the Competition Commission, I will take as much time as necessary to carefully consider all the relevant information so that I am able to come to a fully considered decision. In view of the commercial sensitivity of the process and the need to preserve legitimate confidentiality, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on every stage of the process. I will publish Ofcom's report with commercially sensitive information redacted. I have not taken a final decision about when to publish, but I have a duty to publish the report before or at the time of the announcement of my decision. I am committed to reaching my decision in a fair and even-handed way, and am satisfied that the decision-making process will ensure all concerns are properly considered.

East London Tech City

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what contribution his Department is making to the Prime Minister's initiative to create a tech city in east London. [34563]

Mr Vaizey: Officials within the Department are working closely with UK Trade and Investment, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Olympic Park Legacy Company, the London Borough of Hackney and other relevant parties to take forward the ambition for London's east end to become a world-leading technology city, centred around Shoreditch/Hoxton and the Olympic park hubs.

Horseracing Levy

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to announce the determination of the horseracing levy for 2011. [34883]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State intends to make his determination on the basis of my advice by the end of February at the latest.

Internet

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of households without access to the internet in England and Wales. [35364]

Mr Vaizey: Almost all households in the UK can access the internet through one of a variety of mechanisms broadband connection, dial-up connection via the phone line, mobile or satellite.

Broadband Delivery UK estimates that about 950,000 households have access to internet connections capable of 512 Kbps or less.

Libraries: Closures

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which libraries in London are *(a)* proposing to close and *(b)* proposing to reduce their opening hours. [35487]

Mr Vaizey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 775W.

Mass Media

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to publish his proposed local media action plan. [35380]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The local media action plan was published on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's website on 19 January 2011. It can be found using the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/ConDoc-Local_Media_Action_Plan_190111.pdf

British Sky Broadcasting

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to meet representatives of *(a)* News Corporation and *(b)* media organisations opposed to News Corporation's acquisition of BSkyB prior to taking a decision on whether to refer the proposed acquisition of BSkyB to the Competition Commission. [34964]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 20 January 2011]*: On 31 December 2010 I received Ofcom's report on the public interest issues relating to the News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB. In taking my decision about whether to refer this proposed acquisition to the Competition Commission, I will take as much time as necessary to carefully consider all the relevant information so that I am able to come to a fully considered decision. In view of the commercial sensitivity of the process and the need to preserve legitimate confidentiality, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on every stage of the process. I will publish Ofcom's report with commercially sensitive and confidential information redacted. I have not taken a final decision about when to publish, but I have a duty to publish the report before or at the time of the announcement of my decision. I am committed to reaching my decision in a fair and even-handed way, ensuring that all concerns are properly considered.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Radioactive Waste

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to *(a)* the use of near-surface nuclear waste repositories, *(b)* retrieval of waste from such repositories for processing and *(c)* processing of waste previously stored in such repositories. [35180]

Charles Hendry: Low level waste (LLW) is currently managed in near-surface facilities, principally at the low level waste repository (LLWR) in West Cumbria.

A near-surface facility is also being developed at the Dounreay site in Scotland. Some lower hazard radioactive wastes are also disposed of to conventional landfills.

Near-surface disposal is further being considered for certain intermediate level wastes subject to a facility achieving an Environmental Safety Case and other relevant permissioning. The requirements for a safety case are set out in guidance from the environment agencies. At the current time, such considerations are at an early feasibility stage and no such facilities currently operate.

It is Government policy that higher activity wastes, such as high-level waste (HLW) from reprocessing, intermediate level waste and long-lived LLW and unreprocessed spent nuclear fuel will be disposed of in a geological disposal facility. The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) spent more than two and a half years considering and evaluating all the options (including near-surface disposal) for managing higher activity radioactive waste on the basis of wide engagement with the expert community including international experience, stakeholders and members of the public. CoRWM recommended that geological disposal was the best available approach as part of a package of recommendations in 2006.

By definition, disposal of radioactive wastes to near surface or geological facilities is undertaken with no intent to retrieve. There are a small number of examples in the UK where historic waste disposals have been retrieved and the waste repackaged and disposed of to modern standards.

It should also be noted that the UK has a strong and effective nuclear safety and environmental regulatory regimes that ensure the safe disposal and management of radioactive waste.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund *(a)* raised and *(b)* cost to administer in each of the last four years. [34928]

Richard Benyon: The Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) was established at the same time as the Aggregates Levy, in 2002, complementing the Levy's objectives by targeting the environmental impacts directly. There is no direct financial link between the Fund and Levy; the Fund is managed by DEFRA and the Levy by HMRC. The Fund does not raise money whereas the Levy does and contributes to the general taxation pot. HMRC figures show that the following was raised over the last four financial years:

	Total receipts (£ million)
2007-07	321
2007-08	339
2008-09	334
2009-10	275

DEFRA's administrative costs to run the ALSF have been approximately £472,000 (or approx £118,000 on average for each year) for the last four years. This cost was in addition to the fund itself. The funds are allocated to a number of primary delivery partners, many of which subsequently distribute on to others, so it is not possible to compile a complete breakdown of costs. However delivery partners are required to ensure that their administrative costs did not exceed 7% of their own ALSF budget allocation without prior approval. This was only sanctioned in one case.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to provide funding for *(a)* community and *(b)* archaeological projects hitherto funded through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund grant scheme. [34929]

Richard Benyon: There is no direct replacement for the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund although the Department can provide funds through its Rural Development Programme for England programme—and through its support for bodies such as Natural England and Action with Communities in Rural England—to support and develop community projects.

DEFRA also funds some options in Environmental Stewardship for management of farm land containing archaeological sites and artefacts.

Flood Control: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for how many capital schemes for flood risk management funded by the Environment Agency construction commenced in *(a)* England and *(b)* the Yorkshire and north-east Region in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and for how many such schemes will construction commence in (A) 2011-12 and (B) 2012-13. [34476]

Richard Benyon: Provision of a detailed breakdown of the number of Environment Agency capital schemes that commenced construction in England in the specified years would incur disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the number of schemes that have been completed in each of the years requested, and provides a good indication of the number of schemes that would have commenced construction in the same period.

	Number of schemes completed in England
2008-09	75
2009-10	101
2010-11	125

The following table indicates the number of schemes that commenced in the Yorkshire and north-east region in each of the years specified:

	Number of schemes that commenced in Yorkshire and north-east region
2008-09	4
2009-10	9
2010-11	5

2011-12

Figures are not yet available. The indicative funding allocation proposals for flood and coastal erosion risk management projects for 2011-12 are currently subject to discussion between the Environment Agency and its Regional Flood Defence Committees. Final decisions on the allocation of funds to regional committees will be made in February or March by the Environment Agency's Board, and decisions on the programmes of schemes to be delivered next year will be made by the committees in April.

2012-13

The budget and number of projects for future years will depend on the outcome of DEFRA's 'Future funding for Flood and Coast Erosion Risk Management' consultation.

Sewers: Private Sector

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mapping of *(a)* private lateral drains and sewers and *(b)* private pumping stations her Department has undertaken. [34877]

Richard Benyon: No mapping has taken place. It is not necessary to know the precise location of private sewerage assets to effect their transfer to water and sewerage companies under the Government's proposals for the transfer of private sewers.

Wood: Landfill

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has plans to bring forward proposals to introduce a ban on wood going to landfill. [34765]

Richard Benyon: The Government are not minded to introduce further landfill restrictions in England at present, but will consider how best to make further reductions in the amount of waste to going to landfill as part of the review of waste policies, due to conclude in spring 2011.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Art Works

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many pieces of artwork his Department has moved since May 2010. [34663]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is not responsible for moving works of art displayed in its buildings either in the UK or abroad.

Art displayed in FCO buildings is from the Government Art Collection (GAC) which is also responsible for its transport. Details of GAC art located in FCO buildings can be found on the GAC website:

http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/locations_browser.aspx

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on artwork since May 2010. [34664]

Alistair Burt: On 13 May 2010 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spent £746 on posters/artwork for our embassy in Paris. Since then no artwork has been purchased for the diplomatic estate by the FCO.

Works of art displayed in FCO buildings in the UK and throughout the network are from Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions. The most recent details of acquisitions are contained in the annual report, available on the GAC website:

http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/images/documents/Reports/2009-2010_annual_report.pdf

Departmental Furniture

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on furniture since May 2010. [34662]

Alistair Burt: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34593]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) seeks to apply the space guidelines laid down centrally by the Government Property Unit (GPU) wherever possible. The current guidelines are 10 sq m per full time employee (FTE). For any new fit-out or refurbishment a ratio of 8 square metres per FTE is applied.

The FCO's policy on flexible working is that everyone has the right to request it. Flexible working is granted where the business need allows. Home working is one of a range of flexible working arrangements available to staff; there are approximately 30 home workers in the FCO.

In newly refurbished and fitted out areas provision is made for hot desking. On average there are 1.2 FTEs per workstation. Given the heritage and listed building status of the FCO's buildings in London it is not always possible to achieve the GPU standards; for example, the average space per employee as reported in the latest benchmarking exercise is currently 14.3 square metres.

Hungary: Freedom of Expression

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to his Hungarian counterpart on new legislation limiting freedom of expression in that country. [33594]

Mr Lidington: I spoke to my Hungarian counterpart, Eniko Gyori, about the implications of this new legislation on 20 January. Freedom of the press is at the heart of a free society. The European Commission is currently reviewing the legislation to check whether it is in compliance with EU law and international norms and I look forward to hearing their findings.

Iraq: Christianity

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Iraq on the treatment of Christians in that country; and if he will make a statement. [34507]

Alistair Burt: The Government utterly condemn the recent attacks on the Christian community in Iraq. I released a statement following the attack on Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad on 31 October 2010, which killed 53 people, as did our ambassador to Baghdad, and Pope Benedict XVI. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary released a statement following further attacks across Baghdad on 2 November 2010. We will continue to raise our concerns at the highest level, particularly in wake of the most recent attacks on Christian homes in Baghdad.

On 10 November 2010 the Foreign Secretary met the Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hoshyar Zebari, and raised the issue of Iraqi Christians with him. Mr Zebari agreed that the protection of Christians was the responsibility of the Iraqi Government.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister also raised this in a telephone conversation with Prime Minister al-Maliki on 15 November 2010. Prime Minister al-Maliki expressed concern at recent developments, and welcomed UK support.

On 20 December 2010, Prime Minister al-Maliki's proposed Cabinet was approved by the Iraqi Council of Representatives, ending several months of hiatus since the March 2010 elections. We have since urged the Iraqi Government to address the key challenges facing Iraq and its people, particularly the protection of all Iraqis, including Christians.

Israel: Embassies

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of vetting procedures in respect of the appointment of locally engaged staff at the British consulate in Jerusalem. [33218]

Alistair Burt: Before taking up employment, all our locally engaged staff undergo appropriate levels of security vetting in accordance with the Government's Security Policy Framework. We are confident in this process, but we keep our security procedures under constant review, and will take recent events into account as appropriate.

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will commission an investigation into a recent incident involving two employees of the British consulate in Jerusalem. [34109]

Alistair Burt: The two members of local staff of the Jerusalem consulate general arrested in December 2010 by Israeli authorities are subject to an ongoing legal process. Subject to the outcome of that process, we are conducting an internal investigation into the original circumstances of their employment. We are also reviewing whether current vetting procedures are appropriate and being applied correctly in all our posts.

Ministerial Offices

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on redecorating ministerial offices since May 2010. [34661]

Alistair Burt: We have spent £2,107 plus VAT since May 2010. We aim to refurbish Offices every 10 years. Costs reflect the need to safeguard the historic interiors of a Grade I listed building.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to support opponents of religious extremism in Pakistan. [35268]

Alistair Burt: Religious tolerance is an important part of a democratic society. All Pakistani citizens should have their human rights protected by the Government of Pakistan, regardless of their religion or ethnicity. The UK works with the Government of Pakistan and civil society to help tackle the root causes of religious extremism in Pakistan.

A major part of our Prevent programme in Pakistan is dedicated to working with Pakistanis in reducing the threat from violent extremism, and to build their capability to deal with it. Examples include providing platforms for leading international scholars to challenge the ideological justification for terrorism, and a campaign by former extremists to equip young people to challenge extremists' arguments. These interventions are designed to increase the resilience of particularly vulnerable groups against terrorists' narratives and ideology, and improve their ability to challenge these arguments where they encounter them.

HEALTH

Baby Care Units

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make improving neonatal services, including nurse staffing, a priority for local services in the NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12. [34650]

Anne Milton: The "NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12" was published on 15 December 2010.

It is for local healthcare providers to decide how best to organise their workforce to achieve better outcomes and value for money.

Care Quality Commission: Fees and Charges

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the potential effects on the regulatory burden of proposals by the Care Quality Commission to charge registration fees; and if he will make a statement. [35059]

Mr Simon Burns: It is a standard principle that organisations that are regulated should meet the cost of regulation. It is therefore appropriate that all providers that are required to register with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) should pay a fee for registration.

CQC is responsible for setting the level of registration fees payable by different providers, subject to consultation and the consent of the Secretary of State.

CQC is committed to the principles of good regulation (proportionate, accountable, consistent, transparent and targeted) throughout its work. It has consulted on its proposals for registration fees that will apply from April 2011 and will publish its response in due course.

Food Standards Agency: Fees and Charges

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the livestock industry of the charging proposals envisaged by the Food Standards Agency; what assessment he has made of the impact of such charges on slaughterhouses; and if he will make a statement. [35019]

Anne Milton: The proposals for moving towards full cost recovery and a maximum 70% full cost reduction (low throughput establishments) of meat hygiene and welfare at slaughter official controls are set out in a public consultation which closes on 1 February 2011. The total cost of these proposals for Great Britain is estimated to be £29.41 million, and using a working assumption, which originates from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, slaughterhouses would absorb one third of the cost and livestock producers the other two thirds; it is estimated the proposals would cost slaughterhouses £9.80 million, and livestock producers £19.61 million. These estimates do not factor in the efficiencies of £5.5 million to which the Food Standards Agency is committed, and therefore the costs could be less than those estimated.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure the Food Standards Agency complies with the provision on publication of meat hygiene changes of EU Regulation 882/2004 [35020]

Anne Milton: Article 27(12) of Regulation 882/2004 states:

> "The Member States shall make public the method of calculation of fees and communicate it to the Commission. The Commission shall examine whether the fees comply with the requirements of this Regulation."

In August 2009, following a consultation exercise launched in December 2008 on the charging arrangements and charging levels for official controls carried out in the United Kingdom in approved meat premises, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) wrote to the European Commission. The letter advised that, with agreement of Ministers in all four UK countries, the FSA had decided to proceed with the introduction of a new system of calculating charges for meat hygiene and animal welfare at slaughter official controls. The letter explained the new system would base charges on the time cost of official controls in meat businesses and would continue to comply with Article 27 and Annex IV, Chapters I to III of Regulation 882/2004. It was confirmed these arrangements would take effect from 28 September 2009.

Each country has its own legislation under The Meat (Official Controls Charges) 2009 which determine the charge method the FSA currently uses. To assist food business operators with a more comprehensive understanding, the FSA published an extensive charges guide which includes details of what is and is not chargeable. This was posted to all food business operators on 12 September 2009 and is also available on the FSA website at:

www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/meat/mhservice/chargesguide

The FSA advises every food business operator, before the start of each financial year, what their charges will be. In addition the FSA keeps food business operators updated against European Union minimal requirements throughout the year.

General Practitioners

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* upper and *(b)* lower limits he has set for remuneration of members of GP commissioning boards; and if he will make a statement. [35155]

Mr Simon Burns: Commissioning consortia will be held to account by the NHS Commissioning Board for the outcomes they achieve for patients and their financial performance. Each consortium will have a constitution, which will specify the arrangements for how it will discharge its functions, including in relation to determining the remuneration and terms and conditions of its employees. Consortia will be able to pay employees such remuneration and employ them on such other terms and conditions as they may determine.

We have, however, set out that consortia will receive an allowance for running costs that could be in the range of £25 to £35 per head of population by 2014-15. We will not determine the exact amount until further work has been undertaken with pathfinders. This work will explore the optimal balance between ensuring sufficient investment in organisational sustainability with maximising resources for front line services.

Influenza: Vaccinations

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the availability of influenza vaccine in Oxford West and Abingdon constituency. [35316]

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has received on shortages of influenza vaccinations in Wirral primary care trust since October 2010. [35303]

Anne Milton: The Department has been aware of some reports of seasonal influenza vaccine supply issues in some parts of the country. General practitioners (GPs) in England order seasonal influenza vaccine direct from the manufacturers, according to their patient's needs. The national health service is working to ensure that any local vaccine shortages are managed effectively.

The chief medical officer wrote to GPs in England on 6 January to confirm that they can use the H1N1 monovalent influenza vaccine Pandemrix, which will help protect people most at risk against the H1N1 virus which is causing the most illness. A copy of this letter has already been placed in the Library.

There are potentially over 12 million doses of Pandemrix available to the NHS if needed.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason his Department did not offer influenza immunisations to all children under five years in the winter of 2010-11. [35485]

Anne Milton: The Government's policy on influenza vaccination is informed by the expert advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The policy focuses on offering the vaccine to those at greatest risk from the effects of flu. JCVI does not recommend that children under the age of five outside the at-risk groups should be vaccinated.

On 30 December, JCVI met to review its advice on seasonal flu vaccination. It issued the following statement:

> "JCVI was presented with data on the current seasonal influenza epidemiology, seroepidemological data collected during the 2009/10 pandemic, modelling of the impact of vaccination strategies during the pandemic, data on the effectiveness of influenza vaccines in the young and vaccine uptake and safety data.
>
> JCVI noted that a large proportion of those individuals with severe disease are in recognised risk groups for influenza but unfortunately were not vaccinated. It strongly re-iterated its previous advice that all individuals in risk groups should be vaccinated as soon as possible, particularly those aged less than 65 years.
>
> The committee considered the issue of offering vaccination to healthy children either 0-4 years and/or 5-15 years of age. However, although there is a high incidence of influenza-like illness currently in these age groups, a significant proportion of this is due to other viruses such Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). In addition, only a very small proportion of those with severe disease are in these age groups. Based on previous seasonal influenza epidemiology it would be hoped that influenza circulation will have subsided within a month. We do not believe that seasonal or pandemic vaccine should be used for these or other healthy person groups. The greatest gain will be achieved in increasing vaccine uptake in the clinical risk groups."

As with all vaccination programmes, JCVI will keep this matter under review.

NHS: East of England

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which Quality, Innovation, Prevention and Productivity plans he has received from NHS trusts in the East of England; and if he will publish those plans. [35194]

Mr Simon Burns: Strategic health authorities have been developing their regional Quality, Innovation, Prevention and Productivity (QIPP) plans to meet their local efficiency challenge for over a year. Following the spending review and the publication of the "NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12" they have been working to integrate these into mutually reinforcing regional reform, QIPP and business plans. The Department will publish a summary of the regional plans in due course once the work to integrate and test the assumptions in the plans has been completed.

NHS: Official Hospitality

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS hospitals in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* Cumbria spent on hospitality in each year since 2005. [35158]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Overseas Aid

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department expects to publish its humanitarian emergency response review. [34646]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The humanitarian emergency response review (HERR) is an independent review of the UK Government's emergency humanitarian assistance, which is being led by Lord Ashdown. As stated in the Department for International Development's (DFID's) business plan 2011-15, the HERR aims to publish its final report by the end of March 2011. However, at the request of its Advisory Board, it has built in a four-week deadline extension (until the end of April 2011), to allow for possible delays that would then mean having to wait until after Parliament's Easter recess to publish the report.

JUSTICE

Prisoners

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many serving prisoners had an address in Liverpool, West Derby constituency immediately prior to committal. [35521]

Mr Blunt: Information held on prisoners does not include home addresses provided immediately prior to committal at court but does include an address provided on first reception in to prison.

As at 30 November 2010 there were 201 sentenced prisoners with a recorded residential address, as described below, in the Liverpool, West Derby constituency area. This figure includes sentenced male and female prisoners, adults, young offenders and juveniles. The figure does not include those held on remand.

Information on a prisoner's residence is provided by prisoners on reception into prison and recorded on a central IT system. Addresses include a prisoner's home address, an address to which they intend to return on discharge and next of kin and these figures are included in the answer. If no address is given, a prisoner's committal court address is used as a proxy for the area in which a prisoner is resident. This is required for about 40% of the prison population. As there is no committal court in the West Derby constituency area, no prisoners have been included in the figures provided on this basis. However, there may be some under counting in respect of prisoners from the West Derby constituency who have not provided an address and for whom a proxy address elsewhere is used. No address has been recorded and no court information is available for around 3% of prisoners, these figures are also excluded from the answer.

Prisoners: Sexual Offences

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving sentences of less than four years have been convicted of *(a)* violent and *(b)* sexual offences. [34073]

Mr Blunt: From the most recent available data, 31 December 2010, the number of prisoners serving sentences of less than four years was *(a)* 5,648 for violent offences and *(b)* 1,808 for sexual offences.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Serious Fraud Office

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effect on *(a)* the operations of the Serious Fraud Office and *(b)* the timetable for implementation of the Bribery Act 2010 of the review of the provisions of that Act announced by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. [35181]

Mr Blunt: A timetable for commencement of the Bribery Act in spring 2011 was set out by the Lord Chancellor in a statement on 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 11WS. The Serious Fraud Office is fully involved in preparations for the commencement of the Act, as indeed is the Crown Prosecution Service. As part of the Government's work on the growth review, the Secretary of State for Business and the Chancellor are meeting colleagues to discuss how their Departments can better support business.

The growth review will ensure that every Government Department is doing everything it can to identify the obstacles for investment and help the country's economy grow.

Robert Oxley

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the cost of the tribunal case into the appeal made by Mr Robert Oxley held in Colchester on 13 December 2010. [35176]

Mr Djanogly: The average cost for the Tribunals Service of a completed appeal in the First-tier Tribunal - Social Security and Child Support (based on national 2009-10 data) is £282.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid to each person who sat on the appeals tribunal in Colchester on 13 December 2010 which considered cases including that of Mr Robert Oxley in respect of their attendance. [35178]

Mr Djanogly: The panel that sat in Colchester on 13 December 2010 and considered appeals, including that of Mr Robert Oxley, was composed of a judge, a medical member and a member with experience of disability. The current daily fees are: judge £424, medical member £310, member with experience of disability £192.

Full details of judicial salaries and fees can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/judicial-fees-salaries.htm

TRANSPORT

First Capital Connect

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department made of First Capital Connect's compliance with committed obligations under its franchise agreement in the most recent four-weekly assessment period. [34352]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 19 January 2011]*: Department for Transport officials monitor First Capital Connect's performance against the contract on a four weekly basis and meet with the operator every four weeks to review compliance against the franchisee's contractual commitments. This review includes operational performance and the delivery of committed obligations. During the most recent four-weekly assessment period, no contraventions of the franchise agreement were identified.

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department had with representatives of First Capital Connect between 5 May 2010 and 31 December 2010. [34353]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State did not meet with First Capital Connect between 5 May 2010 and 31 December 2010. However, I met with First Capital Connect on 24 August 2010. Department for Transport officials meet regularly with First Capital Connect on matters pertaining to the franchise. Department for Transport Ministers have also met representatives from FirstGroup on other occasions.

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions First Capital Connect had with his Department on franchise obligations between 1 April 2006 and 3 December 2010. [34354]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 19 January 2011]:* Department for Transport officials meet regularly with First Capital Connect to ensure compliance with the franchise agreement requirements. My officials also have regular meetings to discuss other developments with the operator, such as the implementation of the Thameslink programme.

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in which four-weekly assessment periods his Department concluded that First Capital Connect is not in compliance with its franchise agreement between 1 April 2006 and 31 December 2010. [34355]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 19 January 2011]:* In September 2009, it was concluded that First Capital Connect had contravened its franchise agreement regarding two committed obligations.

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department collects as part of its four-weekly performance review of First Capital Connect. [34356]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 19 January 2011]:* First Capital Connect's franchise agreement contains agreed management provisions for a franchise performance meeting to be held once every railway period (every four weeks), supported by a report from the operator detailing the franchisee's performance with respect to a number of items. The information provided covers operational and financial performance as well as delivery against franchise obligations.

Heathrow Airport: Administrative Delays

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many representations he has received on delays at Heathrow airport in December; and if he will make a statement [34549]

Mrs Villiers: To date, the Department for Transport has received 59 items of correspondence in relation to December's severe weather effects on Heathrow.

Members: Correspondence

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to reply to Questions 29626, 29628, 29629 and 29627, on winter weather, tabled on 6 December for ordinary written answer. [32075]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* I answered these questions on the following dates:

29627: 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 42-3W

29626: 11 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 241-2W

29629: 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 423-4W

29628: 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 665W.

Railways: Severe Weather

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the East Coast Mainline train services from Edinburgh Waverley to London Kings Cross which were *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* delayed due to severe weather from 27 November 2010 to 21 December 2010. [33180]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 12 January 2011]:* The Department for Transport does not hold the information in the form requested.

Road Traffic: West Yorkshire

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on plans to ease congestion on the A65 corridor between Leeds and Bradford. [34501]

Norman Baker: The A65 is part of the local road network. The relevant local highway authorities are responsible for traffic management and congestion relief.

However the Department for Transport is providing funding, up to a maximum of £19.825 million, for a new Quality Bus Corridor, which is currently under construction on the Kirkstall road section of the A65 in Leeds.

TREASURY

Devolution: Finance

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he undertook an equality impact assessment of the effect on the delivery of services by the devolved administrations resulting from the termination of end of year flexibility. [34674]

Mr Gauke: The Government announced in the spending review that they are abolishing the end year flexibility (EYF) system at the end of 2010-11 and replacing it with a new system from 2011-12. However the Government will abide by existing commitments to the devolved Administrations to draw down EYF this year.

The Government have not carried out an equality impact assessment of the effect of the termination of the end-of-year flexibility on the delivery of services. The role of the Treasury in making decisions about public expenditure in devolved areas of spending is to allocate resources—it is then for the devolved Administrations to decide how best to manage these resources. In devolved areas of spending it is for the devolved Administrations to conduct their own equality impact assessments of their policy proposals, in line with their legal obligations.

The Treasury takes its statutory equality duties very seriously. I work closely with my colleagues, especially the Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities, to ensure that HM Treasury complies with its statutory obligations.

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what considerations his Department took into account in removing end of year flexibility from the budgeting provisions of the devolved Administrations; and if he will make a statement. [34676]

Mr Gauke: Delivering the spending plans announced in the Government's 2010 spending review will require a robust framework to control spending. The End Year Flexibility (EYF) system which allows Departments and the devolved Administrations to carry forward unspent budget provisions into future years to discourage wasteful end-year spending has, in practice, led to accumulated stocks that would further increase the deficit if they were spent. The Government plan to abolish the existing EYF system at the end of 2010-11 and replace it with a new system from 2011-12 which will retain an incentive to avoid wasteful end-year spending and strengthen spending control.

In addition, the devolved Administrations are able to carry forward planned reductions in spending from 2010-11 to 2011-12 if they wish.

Excise Duties and VAT: Fuels

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effectiveness of a fuel price stabiliser for petrol calculated on the basis of *(a)* value added tax, *(b)* fuel duty and *(c)* value added tax and fuel duty; and if he will make a statement. [35175]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 665W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith).

Excise Duties: Fuels

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received on introducing a fuel duty escalator for petrol prices *(a)* in rural areas and *(b)* nationally; and if he will make a statement; [34878]

(2) what recent representations he has received from those resident in north Yorkshire on a fuel rebate for rural areas; [35263]

(3) what criteria his Department plans to apply for the definition of rural areas qualifying for a rebate on fuel; [35264]

(4) what recent representations he has received on the fuel pump prices of *(a)* petrol and *(b)* diesel in (i) north Yorkshire and (ii) other parts of the UK; and if he will make a statement; [35265]

(5) what recent representations he has received on the level of duty on *(a)* petrol and *(b)* diesel fuel; and if he will make a statement. [35266]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Mr MacNeil) on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 664W. The Government are taking forward this action because of the high costs of transporting and distributing fuel to remote Scottish Islands and the Scilly Isles.

The Chancellor routinely receives a range of representations from stakeholders and the general public on current and future rates of excise duty as well as other issues such as road fuel prices.

Income Tax: Children

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the increase in the number of people in single income households with children who will pay income tax at the higher rate from April 2011. [32105]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* The number of people in single income households with children who will pay income tax at the higher rate from April 2011 is estimated to be around 175,000. This is estimated to be around 20,000 higher than the equivalent number from April 2010.

Single income households with children include couples with children where there is only one income as well as lone-parents. These households are all within the top 19% of household incomes.

Members: Correspondence

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Ochil and South Perthshire to the Prime Minister of 3 November 2010, transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 16 November 2010 and to the Treasury on 29 November 2010. [35492]

Mr Gauke: The Financial Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Fareham (Mr Hoban), replied to the hon. Member for Ochil and South Perthshire on 19 January 2011.

Northern Ireland Executive: Finance

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reverse his decision to remove end of year flexibility from the budgetary provisions of Departments of the Northern Ireland Executive. [34677]

Mr Gauke: The Government are abolishing the end year flexibility system, including all accumulated stocks, at the end of 2010-11 and replacing it with a new system from 2011-12 which will retain an incentive to avoid wasteful end-year spending and strengthen spending control. Further detail will be set out later this financial year.

The Government are standing by their existing commitment to the Northern Ireland Executive to draw down end year flexibility (EYF) in the current year and their commitment to carry forward underspends for the Department of Justice under the terms of the £800 million funding package which accompanied the devolution of policing and justice.

VAT: Charities

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has plans to bring forward proposals to enable charities to reclaim value added tax on the same basis as limited companies. [34072]

Mr Gauke: Charities can already recover VAT incurred on their purchases and expenses in the same way as limited companies—that is, to the extent that those purchases and expenses relate to taxable sales that they make. Neither charities nor businesses can recover VAT that relates to exempt sales or non-business activities.

Unlike businesses, charities benefit from a range of tax reliefs which for 2009-10 the Government estimate are worth approximately £3 billion per annum. These include reliefs from VAT, for example: VAT zero-rating on the sale of donated goods, medical and scientific equipment and, for qualifying charities, goods for use by disabled people. All zero rates are derogations from the normal EU VAT rules, and represent benefits not enjoyed by charities elsewhere in Europe.

Working Tax Credit

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals receive the 50+ element of the working tax credit in each local authority. [26638]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Local authority	*Number of households receiving the 50+ element*
Aylesbury Vale	—
Chiltern	—
South Bucks	—
Cambridge	35
East Cambridgeshire	—
Huntingdonshire	30
South Cambridgeshire	—
Allerdale	30
Barrow-in-Furness	—
Carlisle	45
Eden	—
South Lakeland	—
Amber Valley	25
Bolsover	25
Chesterfield	25
Derbyshire Dales	—
Erewash	—
High Peak	—
North East Derbyshire	25
South Derbyshire	25
East Devon	35
Exeter	65
Mid Devon	25
North Devon	—
South Hams	25
Teignbridge	55
Torridge	—
West Devon	—
Christchurch	45
East Dorset	—
North Dorset	35
Purbeck	—
West Dorset	—
Weymouth and Portland	40
Eastbourne	—
Hastings	—
Lewes	—
Rother	—
Wealden	—
Basildon	40
Braintree	—
Brentwood	—
Castle Point	—
Chelmsford	—
Colchester	30
Epping Forest	—
Harlow	25
Tendring	40
Boston	45
East Lindsey	65
Lincoln	—
North Kesteven	—
South Holland	40
South Kesteven	50
West Lindsey	25
Broad land	—
Great Yarmouth	25
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	—
North Norfolk	60
Norwich	30
South Norfolk	30
Corby	45
Daventry	—
East Northamptonshire	—
Kettering	45
Northampton	50
South Northamptonshire	—
Wellingborough	—
Craven	—
Harrogate	—
Richmondshire	—
Ryedale	30
Scarborough	50
Selby	—
Ashfield	70
Bassetlaw	—
Broxtowe	35
Gedling	30
Mansfield	35
Newark and Sherwood	25
Rushcliffe	—
Cherwell	—
Oxford	—
Vale of White Horse	—
West Oxfordshire	—
Mendip	25
Sedgemoor	—
South Somerset	40
Taunton Deane	35
West Somerset	—
Cannock Chase	—
East Staffordshire	25
Lichfield	—
South Staffordshire	30
Stafford	30
Staffordshire Moorlands	40
Brent	35
Bromley	30
Camden	25
Croydon	35

Local authority	*Number of households receiving the 50+ element*
Ealing	—
Enfield	—
Greenwich	50
Hackney	—
Haringey	65
Harrow	—
Havering	35
Hillingdon	—
Hounslow	—
Islington	—
Kensington and Chelsea	40
Kingston-upon-Thames	—
Lambeth	40
Lewisham	—
Merton	50
Newham	75
Redbridge	40
Richmond-upon-Thames	—
Southwark	60
Sutton	—
Tower Hamlets	60
Waltham Forest	—
Wandsworth	30
Westminster	30
Bolton	110
Bury	25
Manchester	160
Oldham	50
Rochdale	80
Salford	80
Stockport	55
Tameside	25
Trafford	50
Wigan	110
Knowsley	100
Liverpool	345
St Helens	25
Sefton	90
Wirral	85
Barnsley	100
Doncaster	90
Rotherham	115
Sheffield	150
Gateshead	50
Bournemouth UA	70
Poole UA	25
Swindon UA	35
Wiltshire	80
Peterborough UA	30
Luton UA	25
Bedford	25
Central Bedfordshire	50
Southend-on-Sea UA	65
Thurrock UA	—
Medway UA	35
Bracknell Forest UA	35
West Berkshire UA	25
Reading UA	—
Slough UA	—
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	—
Wokingham UA	—

Local authority	*Number of households receiving the 50+ element*
Milton Keynes UA	35
Brighton and Hove UA	90
Portsmouth UA	40
Southampton UA	30
Isle of Wight UA	*
Isle of Anglesey	25
Gwynedd	30
Conwy	30
Denbighshire	30
Flintshire	60
Wrexham	60
Powys	55
Ceredigion	25
Pembrokeshire	—
Carmarthenshire	75
Swansea	60
Neath Port Talbot	40
Bridgend	50
Vale of Glamorgan	30
Rhondda. Cynon	115
Merthyr Tydfil	55
Caerphilly	75
Blaenau Gwent	25
Torfaen	55
Monmouthshire	—
Newport	90
Cardiff	100
Aberdeen City	45
Aberdeenshire	45
Angus	—
Argyll and Bute	35
Uttlesford	—
Cheltenham	—
Cotswold	—
Forest of Dean	—
Gloucester	—
Basingstoke and Deane	25
East Hampshire	—
Eastleigh	—
Fareham	—
Hart	—
Havant	—
New Forest	30
Rushmoor	—
Test Valley	—
Winchester	—
Dacorum	25
East Hertfordshire	—
Hertsmere	—
Stevenage	—
Welwyn-Hatfield	—
Ashford	—
Canterbury	55
Dartford	—
Dover	40
Gravesham	—
Maidstone	25
Shepway	30
Swale	25
Thanet	85
Tonbridge and Malling	30

Local authority	*Number of households receiving the 50+ element*
Tunbridge Wells	35
Burnley	—
Chorley	35
Hyndburn	—
Lancaster	60
Pendle	—
Preston	65
Ribble Valley	30
Rossendale	—
South Ribble	25
West Lancashire	70
Wyre	—
Blaby	30
Charnwood	—
Hinckley and Bosworth	25
Melton	—
North West Leicestershire	—
Oadby and Wigston	—
Tamworth	—
Babergh	—
Ipswich	25
Mid Suffolk	—
St. Edmundsbury	—
Suffolk Coastal	30
Waveney	35
Elmbridge	—
Guildford	—
Mole Valley	—
Spelthorne	—
Woking	—
North Warwickshire	25
Nuneaton and Bedworth	—
Rugby	35
Stratford-upon-Avon	—
Warwick	25
Adur	—
Arun	35
Chichester	30
Horsham	—
Mid Sussex	25
Worthing	30
Bromsgrove	35
Malvern Hills	25
Redditch	—
Worcester	50
Wychavon	25
Wyre Forest	30
Derry	—
Limavady	—
Coleraine	—
Ballymoney	—
Magherafelt	25
Cookstown	—
Strabane	—
Dungannon	—
Craigavon	—
Armagh	—
Newry and Mourne	—
Down	—
Lisburn	—
Newtonabbey	40
Ards	—
Belfast	25
Barking and Dagenham	30
Barnet	30
Bexley	30
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	75
North Tyneside	85
South Tyneside	95
Sunderland	120
Birmingham	315
Coventry	35
Dudley	70
Sandwell	50
Solihull	35
Walsall	60
Wolverhampton	70
Bradford	145
Calderdale	105
Kirklees	130
Leeds	160
Wakefield	105
Hartlepool UA	55
Middlesbrough UA	30
Redcar and Cleveland UA	60
Stockton-on-Tees UA	65
Darlington UA	30
County Durham	220
Northumberland 00EM	120
Cheshire East	40
Halton UA	45
Warrington UA	35
Cheshire West and Chester	55
Blackburn with Darwen UA	110
Blackpool UA	65
Kingston-upon-Hull UA	95
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	60
North East Lincolnshire UA	85
North Lincolnshire UA	70
York UA	25
Derby UA	50
Leicester UA	85
Nottingham UA	90
Herefordshire UA	55
Telford and Wrekin UA	75
Shropshire	60
Stoke-on-Trent UA	65
Bath and North East Somerset UA	—
Bristol, City of UA	70
North Somerset UA	—
South Gloucestershire UA	—
Cornwall	235
F reading	40
Torbay UA	90
Scottish Borders, The	—
Clackmannanshire	—
West Dunbartonshire	—
Dumfries and Galloway	85
Dundee City	90
East Ayrshire	50
East Dunbartonshire	25

Local authority	*Number of households receiving the 50+ element*
East Lothian	35
East Renfrewshire	—
Edinburgh, City of	155
Falkirk	30
Fife	95
Glasgow City	270
Highland	105
Inverclyde	90
Midlothian	—
Moray	30
North Ayrshire	45
North Lanarkshire	130
Orkney Islands	—
Perth and Kinross	60
Renfrewshire	90
South Ayrshire	50
South Lanarkshire	95
Stirling	—
West Lothian	50
Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	35

These estimates are based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about these data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010'. This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Results for local authorities with less than 25 households receiving the 50+ element have been suppressed in order to avoid being disclosive.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions his Department has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings his Department was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions his Department has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31928]

Chris Grayling: The Department provided an embargoed briefing to select media, MPs and stakeholders in advance of the oral statement marking the publication of the welfare reform White Paper, "Universal Credit: Welfare that Works". This embargo was respected by the parties concerned.

Otherwise, the Department has not provided any media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010.

Disability Living Allowance

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of carrying out a medical assessment on all recipients of disability living allowance. [35188]

Maria Miller: Medical assessments are not carried out on all recipients of disability living allowance therefore we are not able to say what the estimate of the cost to the public purse is of carrying out a medical assessment on all recipients of disability living allowance.

There is expenditure on medical evidence which amounts to £14.4 million for the 2009-10 financial year for disability living allowance.

Notes:

1. Medical evidence can involve a physical examination requested by PDCS and physical examinations carried out on behalf of employment support allowance (and the former incapacity benefit) that PDCS can request sight of: and

2. Other types of medical evidence that has been sought that does not involve a physical examination, for example a general practitioners factual report.

Source:

Department for Work and pensions Activity Based Management System.

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of people of each *(a)* age, *(b)* sex, *(c)* employment status and *(d)* disability in receipt of the lowest care component of disability living allowance; [35278]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the number of people in receipt of the lowest care component of disability living allowance. [35280]

Maria Miller: Information on the most recent estimate of the number of people in receipt of the lowest care component of disability living allowance—also broken down by age, gender and disability—has been placed in the Library. This information is not available by employment status. This is because disability living allowance can be paid in or out of work and information on employment status is therefore not collected in order to administer the benefit.

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which *(a)* individuals, *(b)* organisations and *(c)* independent specialists are referred to in his Department's consultation document on the reform of disability living allowance in respect of the development of the new assessment for disability living allowance. [35279]

Maria Miller: We are developing the proposals for the new assessment for personal independence payment in collaboration with a group of independent specialists in health, social care and disability, including disabled people. The group includes individuals from a range of relevant fields, such as occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychiatry, social work, general practice and community psychiatric nursing, as well as representatives from RADAR and Equality 2025.

Since DLA reform was announced in the Budget in June 2010, we have been consulting on our proposals informally with disabled people and a broad range of disability organisations, including representatives of the Disability Charities Consortium, the Disability Benefits Consortium and the Disabled Peoples Organisations Group. We launched our formal public consultation on our proposed reforms to DLA on 6 December 2010. We will have ongoing discussions with more disabled people and disability organisations to ensure that our reforms will assess more accurately and consistently who would benefit most from additional support, while continuing to tackle the inequalities faced by disabled people to lead full and active independent lives.

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each ward of Liverpool, West Derby constituency claim disability living allowance. [35282]

Maria Miller: The total number of disability living allowance recipients in Liverpool, West Derby parliamentary constituency as at May 2010 is 9,430. As ward boundaries do not exactly match constituency boundaries we are unable to provide you with information in the format you have requested.

However, the following table provides you with information on the number of disability living allowance recipients in each ward for Liverpool local authority. The only two wards that we have been able to confirm are fully in the Liverpool, West Derby constituency have been italicized in the table.

Disability living allowance recipients in each ward for Liverpool local authority—May 2010

Ward	*Number*
Abercromby	1,260
Aigburth	1,130
Allerton	1,365
Anfield	1,400
Arundel	980
Breckfield	1,430
Broadgreen	1,670
Childwall	1,060
Church	1,085
Clubmoor	1,380
County	1,655
Croxteth	1,410
Dingle	1,485
Dovecot	1,590
Everton	1,075
Fazakerley	1,520
Gillmoss	1,830
Granby	1,615
Grassendale	970
Kensington	1,510
Melrose	1,530
Netherley	995
Old Swan	1,270
Picton	1,160
Pirrie	1,640
St Mary's	1,495
Smithdown	1,150
Speke	1,225
Tuebrook	1,560
Valley	1,160
Vauxhall	1,215
Warbreck	1,760
Woolton	1,000

Notes:
1. Caseload figures by Parliamentary Constituency are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures do not include people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
4. Ward level caseload has been rounded to the nearest five.
5. These geographical areas are 2003 census CAS wards. All data are derived from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) used to produce national, regional and local authority caseload information.
6. Highlighted wards are the only two identified from the postcode directory as being fully in Liverpool, West Derby constituency. Therefore as ward boundaries do not exactly match constituency boundaries we have provided the data for all wards in Liverpool local authority area.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of an indefinite award for disability living allowance in each of the last 10 years. [35379]

Maria Miller: The information requested in contained in the following table.

Number of disability living allowance indefinite awards in payment in each of the last 10 years—GB

	All	*Indefinite awards*
May 2010	3,157,300	2,239,500
May 2009	3,070,600	2,158,500
May 2008	2,973,600	2,066,200
May 2007	2,881,800	1,977,500
May 2006	2,799,200	1,919,900
May 2005	2,729,700	1,875,100
May 2004	2,644,300	1,831,300
May 2003	2,547,100	1,781,400
May 2002	2,424,400	1,725,800
May 2001	2,306,400	1,662,700

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate
DLA figures are from 5% sample data.
The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit.

Employment: Young People

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether his Department has an economic model which can be used to evaluate trends in youth unemployment; [35454]

(2) what methods his Department uses to forecast likely levels of youth unemployment; [35455]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of each economic model his Department uses to predict trends in youth employment. [35456]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not produce forecasts of unemployment. The Department produces projections for business planning purposes which are aligned to the overall independent claimant count forecasts published by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) as part of the autumn forecast.

Housing Benefit

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age in work, *(c)* people of working age who are unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants receiving housing benefit in (i) Wirral South constituency and (ii) the Wirral local authority area. [35457]

Steve Webb: The economic status of all housing benefit recipients is not available nor is the information available by constituency.

At present geographic breakdowns are available at local authority or regional level only. However, an exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the data which will include parliamentary constituencies.

Detailed information is only available for those housing benefit recipients whose claim is not passported: that is for those who do not receive either income support, jobseekers allowance (income-based), employment and support allowance (income based), or pension credit (guaranteed credit). A small proportion of the passported cases will be in part-time employment.

The available data for The Wirral local authority area is shown in the following table:

	All tenants	*Social tenants*	*Private sector tenants*
All housing benefit recipients	29,910	16,680	13,220
Aged under 65, passported	16,840	8,440	8,390
Aged under 65, non-passported, in employment	3,390	1,200	2,190
Aged under 65, non-passported, not in employment	2,620	1,290	1,330
Aged 65 and over	7,070	5,750	1,320

Notes:

1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An Extended Payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full-time, work more hours or earn more money.

4. Tenure Type does not include recipients with unknown tenure type.

5. Passported Status does not include recipients with unknown passported status.

6. Claimants not in receipt of a passported benefit and are recorded as being in employment if their local authority has recorded employment income from either the main claimant, or partner of claimant (if applicable), in calculating the housing benefit award. People receiving passported benefits who are working part-time cannot be identified.

7. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either:

a. the recipient if they are single, or

b. the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple.

8. Housing benefit caseload and average weekly amounts are available at local authority area level and these are published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE), October 2010

Robert Oxley

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of the recovery of the Motability car from the home of Mr Robert Oxley of Colchester on 17 January 2011. [35177]

Maria Miller: I am unable to comment on individual cases and the information you requested is not held by the Government. Motability is an independent charitable organisation, wholly responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each ward of Liverpool, West Derby constituency claim jobseeker's allowance. [35283]

Chris Grayling: The total number of job seekers allowance recipients in Liverpool, West Derby parliamentary constituency at December 2010 was 3,861.

The number of jobseeker's allowance recipients in each ward for Liverpool local authority at December 2010 was as follows:

	Number
Abercromby	650
Aigburth	501
Allerton	379
Anfield	716
Arundel	745
Breckfield	624
Broadgreen	660
Childwall	350
Church	471
Clubmoor	580
County	754
Croxteth	415
Dingle	604
Dovecot	671
Everton	524
Fazakerley	521
Gillmoss	677
Granby	968
Grassendale	312
Kensington	998
Melrose	713
Netherley	351
Old Swan	548
Picton	712
Pirrie	691
Smithdown	477
Speke	550
St Mary's	663
Tuebrook	926
Valley	320
Vauxhall	432

	Number
Warbreck	858
Woolton	287

*Notes:**

1. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

2. These geographical areas are 2003 census CAS wards.

3. Highlighted wards are the only two identified from the postcode directory as being fully in Liverpool, West Derby constituency. Therefore as ward boundaries do not exactly match constituency boundaries we have provided the data for all wards in Liverpool local authority area.

4. Caseload data are unrounded.

5. Data are published at:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:

Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (including clerically held cases)

Jobseeker's Allowance

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the working age population of Wirral South constituency are in receipt of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* unemployment allowance, *(c)* carer's allowance, *(d)* disability living allowance, *(e)* widow's benefit and/or bereavement benefit and *(f)* other income support. [35458]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Working age client group split by statistical group in South Wirral constituency—May 2010

Statistical group	*Caseload*	*Population (percentage)*
All	5,810	13.9
Job Seeker	1,160	2.8
Incapacity Benefits	2,790	6.7
Lone Parents	480	1.1
Carer	560	1.3
Others on Income Related Benefits	150	0.3
Disabled	570	1.4
Bereaved	120	0.3

Notes:

1. Data is rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to one decimal place.

2. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

4. Percentage population figures have been calculated using ONS Population estimates as at 2007 for South Wirral Constituency for working age claimants, i.e. males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.

5. State Pension Age: The age at which women reach State Pension age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. As percentages were required this table has been prepared using males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59 and will therefore not match published figures.

6. Statistical Group is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible. For example a claimant of Disability Living Allowance and Jobseekers Allowance would appear in "Job Seeker", not in "Disabled".

7. Lone Parents are defined as claimants on Income Support with child under 16 and no partner. Lone Parent Obligations were introduced from 24 November 2008 affecting the age of the youngest child.

8. From November 2008 the "incapacity benefits group" includes Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). ESA replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008. Prior to this the "incapacity benefits group" referred to claimants of Incapacity Benefit (including credits only) or Severe Disablement Allowance including people claiming IS on the grounds of incapacity.

9. Caseload figures used for AA, CA and DLA include those cases with entitlement but where payment is currently suspended (for example, because of an extended stay in hospital or an overlapping benefit).

10. The key benefits which are currently included in the working-age client group data are:

Bereavement Benefit
Carer's Allowance
Disability Living Allowance
Incapacity Benefit
Severe Disablement Allowance
Income Support (including Pension Credit for males aged 60 to 64)
Jobseeker's Allowance
Widow's Benefit

Sources:

1. DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

2. ONS Mid-Term Population Estimates, 2007

Pensions: Females

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of women whose state pension age will increase by exactly two years under the proposed new timetable for state pension age. [35361]

Steve Webb: We estimate that approximately 33,000 women in Great Britain could face an increase of two years in their state pension age, relative to the current timetable, under the changes proposed in the Pensions Bill 2011.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Compensation and Pensions

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual compensation payment has been to service personnel who have served in Iraq. [34098]

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many service personnel who served in Kosovo are in receipt of the armed forces pension; [34305]

(2) who served in Kosovo are in receipt of both an armed forces pension and payment from a compensation scheme. [34306]

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many service personnel who have served in Afghanistan are in receipt of *(a)* compensation benefits and *(b)* a service pension; [34602]

(2) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual pension payment has been to service personnel who have served in Afghanistan; [34603]

(3) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual compensation payment has been to service personnel who have served in Afghanistan. [34604]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* This information is not held in the format requested. The compensation and pension IT systems do not record the geographical or operational details of where an individual served.

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much compensation has been paid to service personnel injured in Afghanistan in each regiment in each of the last nine years. [35027]

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many service personnel who have served in Iraq are in receipt of both an armed forces pension and a compensation scheme payment; [35373]

(2) how many service personnel who have served in Iraq are in receipt of an armed forces pension; [35374]

(3) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual compensation payment was to service personnel who served in Northern Ireland in the latest period for which figures are available; [35375]

(4) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual pension payment was to service personnel who served in Northern Ireland in the latest period for which figures are available; [35376]

(5) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual pension payment made by his Department to service personnel who have served in Iraq has been in the latest period for which figures are available. [35377]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many former service personnel who have served in Northern Ireland are in receipt of the armed forces pension; [35290]

(2) how many former service personnel who served in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* Bosnia are in receipt of both an armed forces pension and a compensation payment; [35371]

(3) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual pension payment is in respect of former service personnel who served in Bosnia in the latest period for which figures are available. [35372]

Mr Gerald Howarth *[holding answer 20 January 2011]*: This information is not held in the format requested. The compensation and pension IT systems do not record the geographical or operational details of where an individual served.

Armed Forces: Housing

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* long-term and *(b)* short-term plans he has for the disused married quarters in and around Shackleton Road, Gosport. [33645]

Mr Robathan: A recent review of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) within the Gosport area has identified a surplus of properties when set against the Ministry of Defence's future requirement.

It is anticipated that a number of properties on the northern side of Shackleton Road will be handed back to Annington Homes Ltd.

The remaining SFA across the area is considered core stock, and will continue to be used to house entitled service personnel and their families.

Armed Forces: Officers

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the number of senior officers in the Royal Navy compared with the number of such officers in the navies of major NATO allies; [34439]

(2) what assessment he has made of the number of senior officers in the Royal Air Force compared with the number of such officers in the air forces of major NATO allies; [34443]

(3) what assessment he has made of the number of senior officers in the British Army compared with the number of such officers in the armies of major NATO allies. [34444]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The armed forces of each of our NATO allies have a different shape and structure to meet that nation's particular defence requirements and its contribution in support of coalition objectives. It would therefore be pointless to compare the service structure of those serving in the UK's armed forces with those of our major NATO allies and, accordingly, no such assessments are made.

Armed Forces: Pay

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what salary bands were applied in each rank in each of the armed forces in the latest period for which figures are available. [35179]

Mr Gerald Howarth: Pay for members of the armed forces holding the rank of Commodore, Brigadier or Air Commodore and below is recommended by the independent Armed Forces' Pay Review Body. Their 39th report can be found in the Library of the House, or at:

http://www.ome.uk.com/AFPRB_Reports.aspx

Pages 48 to 59 contain the recommended salary bands for this group and these recommendations were accepted in full.

Pay for those officers holding the rank of Rear Admiral, Major General or Air Vice Marshal and above is recommended by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body. Their 32nd report is also available in the Library of the House, or at

http://www.ome.uk.com/SSRB_Reports.aspx

Pages 28 to 30 contain the recommended salary bands for this group and these recommendations were accepted in full.

Armed Forces: Pensions and Social Security Benefits

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the change in the level of *(a)* disablement pension, *(b)* disablement gratuity for a specified minor injury, *(c)* unemployability allowance and *(d)* invalidity allowance for a member of the armed forces at each rank in each of the three forces who lived to (i) 60, (ii) 65, (iii) 70, (iv) 75, (v) 80, (vi) 85, (vii) 90, (viii) 95 and (ix) 100 years and had (A) 10, (B) 20, (C) 25, (D) 30 and (E) 35 years' service as a result of the proposal to link pensions to consumer price index rather than the retail price index. [34965]

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the estimated change is in the level of the benefit for unmarried dependents living as a spouse to be paid annually as a result of the change to link such pensions to the consumer prices index from the retail prices index; [35366]

(2) what the estimated change is in the level of the orphans' pension to be paid annually *(a)* for the first child and *(b)* for subsequent children as a result of the change to link such pensions to the consumer prices index from the retail prices index; [35367]

(3) what the estimate change is in the level of the annual rent allowance as a result of the change to link that allowance to the consumer prices index from the retail prices index; [35368]

(4) what the estimated change is in the level of an adult orphan's pension to be paid annually as a result of the change to link such pensions to the consumer prices index from the retail prices index. [35369]

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will estimate the change in mobility supplement payable to a member of each of the armed forces at each rank living until *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years following (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25, (iv) 30 and (v) 35 years of service arising from a calculation on the basis of the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index; [35271]

(2) if he will estimate the change in comfort allowance payable to a member of each of the armed forces at each rank living until *(a)* 60, (b) 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years following (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25, (iv) 30 and (v) 35 years of service arising from a calculation on the basis of the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index; [35272]

(3) if he will estimate the change in constant attendance allowance payable to a member of each of the armed forces at each rank living until *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years following (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25, (iv) 30 and (v) 35 years of service arising from a calculation on the basis of the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index; [35273]

(4) if he will estimate the change in exceptionally severe disablement allowance payablesave-line3 to a member of each of the armed forces at each rank living until *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years following (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25, (iv) 30 and (v) 35 years of service arising from a calculation on the basis of the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index; [35274]

(5) if he will estimate the change in severe disablement occupational allowance payable to a member of each of the armed forces at each rank living until (a) 60, (b) 65, (c) 70, (d) 75, (e) 80, (f) 85, (g) 90, (h) 95 and (i) 100 years following (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25, (iv) 30 and (v) 35 years of service arising from a calculation on the basis of the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index. [35275]

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will estimate the change in *(a)* compensation benefit and *(b)* pension payments per annum a 27 year-old corporal who lost both legs in Afghanistan would receive as a result of the change to link pensions to the consumer price index if he or she lived until (i) 60, (ii) 65, (iii) 70, (iv) 75, (v) 80, (vi) 85, (vii) 90, (viii) 95 and (ix) 100 years old and if in each such case he or she had served for (A) 10 and (B) 15 years; [35285]

(2) if he will estimate the change in pension a widow of a senior NCO would receive in total as a result of the change to link pensions to the consumer price index if she was widowed at the age of 40 and if she lived until *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years old and if, in each such case, her spouse had served for (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25, (iv) 30 and (v) 35 years; [35286]

(3) if he will estimate the change in widows' pension *(a)* a widow and *(b)* a widower with children of members of each rank of each armed service would receive per annum as a result of the change to link pensions to the consumer price index if he or she lived until (i) 60, (ii) 65, (iii) 70, (iv) 75, (v) 80, (vi) 85, (vii) 90, (viii) 95 and (ix)100 years old and if, in each such case, their spouse had served for had served for (A) 10, (B) 20, (C) 25, (D) 30 and (E) 35 years; [35287]

(4) if he will estimate the change in widows' pension (a) a widow and (b) a widower with no children of each armed service would receive per annum as a result of the change to link pensions to the consumer price index if he or she lived until (i) 60, (ii) 65, (iii) 70, (iv) 75, (v) 80, (vi) 85, (vii) 90, (viii) 95 and (ix) 100 years old and if, in each such case, their spouse had served for had served for (A) 10, (B) 20, (C) 25, (D) 30 and (E) 35 years; [35288]

(5) if he will estimate the change in clothing allowance a member of each rank of the armed forces would receive as a result of the change to link pensions to the consumer prices index if he or she lived until *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years old; and if, in each such case, they had served for (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25, (v) 30 and (v) 35 years. [35289]

Mr Gerald Howarth *[holding answer 20 January 2011]*: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 587-589W) to the hon. Member for West Dunbartonshire (Gemma Doyle) and the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones), and to the ministerial statement made by the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans (Mr Robathan), on 9 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 34-36WS.

Departmental Procurement

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have taken to comply with the Guidance of the Office of Government Commerce on promoting skills through public procurement issued in 2009. [31324]

Peter Luff: The guidance from the Office of Government Commerce in 2009 on promoting skills through public procurement was incorporated into Ministry of Defence (MOD) policy in August 2009. This included guidance and some standard wording for the supplier selection and contract award processes for all of the MOD's acquisition teams to use where it is relevant and proportionate to the specific procurement. I have also recently published a Green Paper which further considers the skills base within the UK defence sector.

Domestic Visits

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many visits in an official capacity *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department have made to (i) the north-east, (ii) the north-west,

(iii) Yorkshire and Humberside, (iv) Scotland, (v) Wales, (vi) London, (vii) the south-east, (viii) the south-west, (ix) the east-midlands and (x) the west-midlands since May 2010. [35523]

Peter Luff: The information requested is provided in the following table:

	Secretary of State	*Minister for the Armed Forces*	*Minister for International Security Strategy*	*Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology*	*Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans*	*Under-Secretary of State*
North-east	0	0	0	1	0	0
North-west	0	0	2	1	1	0
Yorkshire and Humberside	1	0	1	0	0	0
Scotland	2	1	0	2	1	0
Wales	1	0	0	0	0	0
London	33	7	37	13	31	2
South-east	3	2	12	4	8	4
South-west	3	4	2	10	3	3
East midlands	2	1	3	0	1	0
West midlands	2	4	0	2	3	0

The figures in the table include dinners, receptions and speeches as well as formal visits.

Hercules Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many C-130 aircraft are at a high-level of readiness for search and rescue missions; and what the location is of each such aircraft. [34223]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 450-51W, to the hon. Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr McCann), the right hon. Member for Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth) and the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones). The UK will continue to provide search and rescue services using a range of assets depending on the response required. This includes C-130 aircraft, which are tasked as required to support long-range search and rescue (SAR) missions. Long-range SAR is not a primary role for C-130 aircraft.

The main operating base for the C-130 aircraft is RAF Lyneham; however C-130 aircraft operates from a number of locations around the world carrying out a range of military tasks.

Light Protected Patrol Vehicle Foxhound

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce the order of a second tranche of the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle Foxhound. [35187]

Peter Luff: An announcement on any future buy of Foxhound will be made following confirmation of the wider requirement.

Marines

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the implementation of the measures contained in the strategic defence and security review on the *(a)* size, *(b)* capability and *(c)* deployability of the Royal Marines; and if he will make a statement. [35186]

Peter Luff: The Royal Marines will bear a share of the reduction in Naval manpower announced in the strategic defence and security review, although the exact numbers have yet to be determined. The Royal Marines' 3 Commando Brigade will provide a key element of our high readiness response force. With the Royal Navy's amphibious shipping, 3 Commando will have strategic reach and will be able to land and sustain from the sea a commando group of up to 1,800 personnel, together with protective vehicles and other equipment. Other elements of the Royal Marines will continue to undertake a wide range of tasks including protecting the nuclear deterrent and contributing to operations against piracy in the Indian ocean.

Marines: Recruitment

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of his Department's requirement for Royal Marine recruits in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011; [34942]

(2) how much his Department spent on advertising for Royal Marine recruitment in the last six months for which figures are available; [34943]

(3) how many people joined the Royal Marines in the last six months for which figures are available. [34944]

Mr Gerald Howarth *[holding answer 20 January 2011]*: A training year runs from April to March. In 2010-11, the gains to trained strength (ie fully trained status) target for Royal Marines Other Ranks was set at 695; we currently forecast achieving 730, from a total of 1,200 recruits entering the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM). For the same period, the target for Royal Marines Officers was set at 39; we are forecasting achievement of 45, from a total of 50 Officer recruits.

We have assessed the gains to trained strength requirement for the 2011-12 training year to be 550 Other Ranks and 40 Officers. We anticipate that this will be achieved by an intake in the region of 840 Other Ranks and 50 Officer recruits to CTCRM.

In the period July to December 2010, the Department spent £260,000 on recruitment advertising for the Royal Marines.

In the six months from 1 May 2010 to 31 October 2010, 50 Officers and 670 Other Ranks entered CTCRM. These figures represent intake from civilian life and not all of them will have completed their training successfully. They do not therefore include promotions from Ranks to Officers or transfers in from another service.

Other than the gains to trained strength targets, all figures have been rounded to the nearest five or 10.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what potential options for alternative use of the Nimrod MRA4 his Department considered prior to its cancellation. [34172]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: The decision not to bring Nimrod MRA4 into service followed careful consideration of the aircraft's broader utility, and was taken as part of the strategic defence and security review. My officials then assessed a variety of alternative uses for the aircraft.

The Government are satisfied that we considered all realistic uses, and that once the decision not to bring the aircraft in to service was made, the most cost-effective option was to cancel the project immediately. Work to remove component parts and equipment from the aircraft has now begun, with a view to start dismantling them in the next few weeks.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any electronic equipment planned to be used on the Nimrod MRA4 is to be used on other Royal Air Force aircraft. [34461]

Peter Luff: Major items of electronic equipment which were planned to be used on the Nimrod MRA4 to fulfil its operational role are being retained while potential future use on Royal Air Force aircraft or to meet other Ministry of Defence requirements is explored.

USA: AWE Management

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 458W, on nuclear weapons, if he will publish the letter to the hon. Member for Newport West on visits to US establishments by AWE personnel in the last three years. [34160]

Peter Luff: Yes. A copy of my letter will be published in the *Official Report* and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to Paul Flynn:

In my answer to your Parliamentary Question on 13 December 2010, (Official Report: Column 458W), I undertook to write to you and provide details on the US establishments visited by personnel from the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE).

This information has now been collated: the attached annex details the US establishments visited by AWE personnel in the years 2007, 2008 and 2009. This table covers those visits made under the terms of the US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement, which was the basis for the Answer to the hon. Member for Brighton Pavilion (Caroline Lucas) on 17 June 2010 (Official Report, column 503W).

Annex Breakdown of US establishments visited by AWE personnel in each of the last three years

US establishments visited by AWE personnel under the terms of the US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement	*Number of visits by AWE staff to each establishment*		
	2007	*2008*	*2009*
US Dept of Defence, Pentagon	2	5	1
Los Alamos National Laboratory	232	179	164
National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA) HQ Washington DC	33	66	29
Sandia National Laboratory, New Mexico	179	187	189
Sandia National Laboratory California	28	19	32
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	173	124	166
Honeywell Kansas City Plant	31	45	24
Nevada Test Site	13	52	41
Y12 Plant Oak Ridge	31	18	23
ITT Crystal City	15	15	6
BAE Washington DC	4	6	
Defence Threat Reduction Agency Washington	19	25	12
NNSA Nevada Operations Office	25	—	5
B&W Pantex Plant	30	27	26
Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space Sunnyvale	11	12	13
Strategic Systems Programme US Navy	—	13	—
Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic		6	
Savannah River National Laboratory	11	—	7
Defence Intelligence Agency	—	6	
Southern Research Institute	—	3	
Remote Sensing Laboratory Nevada	—	5	
Nevada Intelligence Centre	—	26	
Naval Surface Warfare Centre	3	9	7
Pax River Naval Air Systems Command	—	2	
Oak Ridge National Laboratory	9	12	
Naval Research Laboratory	2	4	6

Annex—Breakdown of US establishments visited by AWE personnel in each of the last three years

US establishments visited by AWE personnel under the terms of the US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement	*Number of visits by AWE staff to each establishment*		
	2007	*2008*	*2009*
DTI Associates	6	—	—
Fort Bragg	—	2	—
Systems Planning and Analysis	—	1	—
Air Force Technical Applications Centre Patrick Air Force Base	3	5	—
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory	5	—	3
Kirtland Air Force Base	—	—	9
Miramar Air Station	—	—	3
Federal Bureau of Investigation Quantico	—	—	2
National Security Agency Fort George	—	—	1
Cape Canaveral Air Force Station	—	—	1
Wright Patterson Air Force Base	—	—	5
Tonopah Test Range	—	—	1
NNSA Service Centre Albuquerque	—	—	5
Applied Physical Laboratory	2	—	
Northrop Grumman	23	—	
Lockheed Martin Missile and Space Company Cocoa Beach	3	—	—
Idaho National Laboratory	1	—	—
Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific	3	—	—
Defence Threat Reduction Agency Albuquerque	1	—	—
Applied Research Associates	1	—	—
Central Intelligence Agency	1	—	—
Savannah River Site	—	2	6
Total	900	876	787

The total numbers differ from those in the June 2010 answer as some staff visited more than one facility.

War Widows: Pensions

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many women are in receipt of a war widows pension from the Armed Forces Pension Scheme as a result of the death of a spouse serving in Afghanistan; [33994]

(2) how many men are in receipt of a war widowers pension from the Armed Forces Pension Scheme; [34077]

(3) how many men are in receipt of a war widowers pension from the Armed Forces Pension Scheme as a result of the death of a spouse serving in Afghanistan. [34078]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: The Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) is the occupational pension scheme for the three services including the reserves. The War Pension Scheme (WPS) is a benefit programme that provides no fault compensation to former service personnel and their dependants for injuries and death as a result of service before 6 April 2005.

Under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) financial support is available in the form of a Survivor's Guaranteed Income Payment (SGIP) for the surviving dependants of service personnel who have died as a result of service on or after 6 April 2005. Surviving dependants include spouses (husband/wife/entitled partner) and children.

The number of women and men in receipt of a pension under AFPS, WPS or a SGIP under AFCS, due to the death of a spouse or partner in Afghanistan, is set out in the following table:

	Widows	*Widowers*
AFPS[1]	115	[2]—
WPS[3]	0	0
AFCS[3]	100	0

[1] Figures for AFPS are as at 14 January 2011.
[2] Fewer than 5.
[3] Figures for WPS and AFCS are as at 30 September 2010.
Note:
All figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

The total number of men in receipt of a widower's pension under AFPS, WPS or a SGIP under AFCS is set out in the following table:

	Number
AFPS[1]	130
WPS[2]	75
AFCS[2]	[3]—

[1] Figures for AFPS are as at 14 January 2011.
[2] Figures for WPS and AFCS are as at 30 September 2010.
[3] Fewer than 5.
Note:
All figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 10 January 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the comprehensive spending review on his Department's budget for flood resilience measures; and if he will make a statement. [26627]

[Official Report, 3 December 2010, Vol. 519, c. 1057W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Robert Neill:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Thirsk and Malton (Miss McIntosh) on 3 December 2010.

The Notice of Question received by my Department referred to "food resilience measures" but this was later changed by the Table Office to "flood resilience measures". Due to an administrative error, the notification of change to the text of the question was not correctly dealt with by my officials resulting in an answer being given on the basis of the original text, i.e. "food resilience measures". I apologise for any inconvenience caused by this mistake.

The full answer given was as follows:

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold a budget for food resilience measures because this is a policy responsibility of the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. DCLG has made no assessment of the effects of the comprehensive spending review on food resilience measures.

The correct answer should have been:

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) does not hold a budget for flood resilience measures because this is a policy responsibility of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). DCLG has made no assessment of the effects of the comprehensive spending review on flood resilience. However my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has informed me that DEFRA expects to spend at least £2.1 billion on flooding and coastal erosion over the next four years. The Department expects the final figure to be an average of £540 million per year, approximately 8% less than spend by DEFRA over the previous four years. As a result of this investment, DEFRA expects to deliver better protection to 145,000 households by March 2015.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 11 January 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Olympic Games 2012: Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what organisations he has consulted to assist him to assess the risks of people trafficking associated with the London 2012 Olympics; and whether he plans to take specific steps to reduce that risk. [30812]

[Official Report, 20 December 2010, Vol. 520, c. 1056-57W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Hugh Robertson:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Slough (Fiona Mactaggart) on 20 December 2010. The reference to the Olympic Intelligence Centre (OIC) being within the Metropolitan police was incorrect.

The full answer given was as follows:

Hugh Robertson: Regular threat briefings take place between the Secretary of State, the Minister for Sport and the Olympics and the Olympic Intelligence Centre, a dedicated body within the Metropolitan Police that gathers information from the security services and regional police forces about potential threats to the games. As part of this the Department have been informed that we are not currently seeing any evidence of an increase in human trafficking related to the London 2012 games.

However, we remain vigilant and will be continuously reviewing the threat of human trafficking. The Government are determined to deter traffickers from exploiting London 2012 and we are building on the considerable expertise the UK has in tackling this issue. Should the intelligence indicate an increase in trafficking we shall ensure that the appropriate measures are in place.

The correct answer should have been:

Hugh Robertson: Regular threat briefings take place between the Secretary of State, the Minister for Sport and the Olympics and the Olympic Intelligence Centre, a body which provides strategic intelligence assessments of all threats and hazards to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is staffed by representatives from across the UK intelligence and law enforcement community. As part of this the Department have been informed that we are not currently seeing any evidence of an increase in human trafficking related to the London 2012 games.

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 12 January 2011

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* funds and *(b)* other resources his Department has allocated to Yemen in the last 12 months. [30571]

[Official Report, 15 December 2010, Vol. 520, c. 776W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Alan Duncan:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Strangford (Jim Shannon) on 15 December 2010. The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development has allocated £50 million of programme funding for development projects in Yemen for this financial year 2010-11. In financial year 2009-10 a total of £27 million was disbursed, as reported in "Statistics for International Development", available on DFID's website.

There are ten international staff and six local staff working full-time on the Yemen programme.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development has allocated £50 million of programme funding for development projects in Yemen for this financial year 2010-11. In financial year 2009-10 a total of £29.8 million was disbursed, as reported in "Statistics for International Development", available on DFID's website.

There are 10 international staff and six local staff working full-time on the Yemen programme.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Jobseekers Allowance

The following is the answer given by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Duncan Smith) relating to a question from the hon. Member for Westminster North (Ms Buck) during Work and Pensions Question Time on 10 January 2011.

Ms Karen Buck (Westminster North) (Lab): Does the Secretary of State accept the Office for Budget Responsibility figures, revealed to my right hon. Friend the Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire South (Mr Alexander), that an extra two thirds of a billion pounds will be spent on housing benefit as a result of rising unemployment over the next four years?

Mr Duncan Smith: The OBR is independent and the Government of course accept what it publishes as independent figures. We go by what the OBR's figures say. As the hon. Lady knows, we inherited a financial mess left by the previous Government. What we are doing is to make sure that we reduce the ballooning cost of, for example, housing benefit that she left behind—a bill that doubled in the past five years.

[Official Report, 10 January 2011, Vol. 521, c. 9.]

Letter of correction from Mr Iain Duncan Smith:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given on 10 January 2011.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Duncan Smith: The OBR is independent and the Government of course accept what it publishes as independent figures. We go by what the OBR's figures say. As the hon. Lady knows, we inherited a financial mess left by the previous Government. What we are doing is to make sure that we reduce the ballooning cost of, for example, housing benefit that she left behind—a bill that doubled in the past ten years.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 18 January 2011

DEFENCE

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what benchmarking assessment his Department has made of the provisions for nuclear test veteran compensation under the US Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. [29013]

[Official Report, 8 December 2010, Vol. 520, c. 281W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Andrew Robathan:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Islwyn (Chris Evans) on 8 December 2010.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Robathan: No benchmarking has taken place.

In the United Kingdom evidence was provided in the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) reports of the three follow-up studies on the health of over 20,000 nuclear test participants and a matched group of military controls. For the United States atomic veterans no comparable large scale epidemiological US study was carried out.

The Ministry of Defence also provides pensions automatically to nuclear test veterans who have one of a list of 22 cancers presumed to be causally linked to service. For other cancers, claims may be accepted on the basis of calculated radiation exposure assessment. In the US, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) will pay a one time lump sum of 75,000 US dollars for cancers on their own list.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Robathan: No benchmarking has taken place.

In the United Kingdom evidence was provided in the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) reports of the three follow-up studies on the health of over 20,000 nuclear test participants and a matched group of military controls. For the United States atomic veterans no comparable large scale epidemiological US study was carried out.

The US Department for Veterans Affairs provides pensions automatically to nuclear test veterans who have one of a list of 22 cancers presumed to be causally linked to service. For other cancers, claims may be accepted on the basis of calculated radiation exposure assessment. In the US, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) will pay a one time lump sum of 75,000 US dollars for cancers on their own list.

Air Force: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on redevelopment work at each Royal Air Force base in Scotland in each of the last 10 years; and what estimate he has made of his Department's likely expenditure on such work in each of the next five years. [30854]

[Official Report, 16 December 2010, Vol. 520, c. 891W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Nick Harvey:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) on 16 December 2010.

The full answer given was as follows:

Nick Harvey: The expenditure on redevelopment (defined as capital expenditure and minor new works) for the major RAF stations in the UK since financial year 2006-07 is shown in the following table:

Expenditure by station

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*£ million* *2009-10*
RAF Kinloss	5.3	3.9	1.9	1.8
RAF Leuchars	4.7	4.3	5.6	9.4
RAF Lossiemouth	5.6	1.8	4.5	6.1

Information prior to the financial year 2005-06 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Some of the expenditure has been split between individual financial years on an estimated basis.

The Ministry of Defence is in the process of completing its annual planning round which will allocate future programme budgets. This is expected to conclude in early 2011.

The correct answer should have been:

Nick Harvey: The expenditure on redevelopment (defined as capital expenditure and minor new works) for the major RAF stations in the UK since financial year 2006-07 is shown in the following table:

Expenditure by station

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*£ million* *2009-10*
RAF Kinloss	5.3	3.9	1.9	1.8
RAF Leuchars	4.7	24.5	5.6	9.4
RAF Lossiemouth	5.6	1.8	4.5	6.1

Information prior to the financial year 2005-06 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Some of the expenditure has been split between individual financial years on an estimated basis.

The Ministry of Defence is in the process of completing its annual planning round which will allocate future programme budgets. This is expected to conclude in early 2011.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 20 January 2011

HEALTH

General Practitioners

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of doctors working in GP practices in England are partners in the practice where they work. [10450]

[Official Report, 26 July 2010, Vol. 514, c. 833W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Simon Burns:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Southport (John Pugh) on 26 July 2010.

The full answer given was follows:

Mr Simon Burns: As at 30 September 2009, there were 35,719 general practitioners (GPs) (excluding GP registrars and retainers) in England. Of these, 28,607 (79.6%) were partners in the practice they worked in.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Simon Burns: As at 30 September 2009, there were 35,719 general practitioners (GPs) (excluding GP registrars and retainers) in England. Of these, 27,613 (76.9%) were partners in the practice they worked in.

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

SIXTH SERIES **VOLUME 521**

SESSION 2010–2012

10 January 2011—21 January 2011

Printed indexes to Hansard

This index is produced from the House of Commons Library's Parliamentary Information Management Services (PIMS). It contains references to all material in the bound volume of Hansard.

- At the end of the session a sessional index is produced containing references to material in the bound volumes for the whole session.

Indexes on the Parliamentary website

Volume indexes covering material from the beginning of the 1999/2000 session will also appear on the Parliamentary website at http://www.parliament.uk with links to the full text of Hansard.

SCOPE

The indexes include entries covering:

- The content of all material recorded in Hansard, including debates, procedural motions and questions.
- The names of all Members contributing to the Parliamentary business recorded in Hansard.
- The names of some types of Parliamentary business whenever they occur in Hansard. These are 'Ministerial statements', 'Business statements', 'Petitions', 'Opposition days' and 'Estimates days'.

ARRANGEMENT

- All headings are in one word-by-word alphabetical sequence, with Members' contribution entries distinguished from other entries by italics.
- Where a Member contributes to Parliamentary business and is the subject of Parliamentary business there are separate contribution and subject entries, the subject entry coming first.
- Entries beginning 'Mac' and 'Mc' are sorted in one sequence as 'Mac'.
- 'St', when abbreviated for Saint, is filed as 'Saint'.
- Numbers are filed as if spelt out, e.g. '10 Downing Street' as if 'Ten Downing Street'.

HEADINGS

Choice of headings

- *Specificity*—Entries summarise the overall content of a debate or question as specifically as the various PIMS thesauruses allow. For example, Education, Higher education, or the name of a particular university is used depending on the breadth of the item.
- *Name headings*—Specific entries are included for the names of people, places, institutions, organisations, committees, programmes, initiatives, publications and legislation when these constitute the overall subject of an item.
- *Organisations and subjects*—Organisation entries are preferred for material about the general performance, administration and staffing of an organisation (for example, Identity and Passport Service, Standards). Subject entries are preferred for what organisations do as part of their duties (for example, Passports, Fees and charges).

Geographical coverage

- *Subject headings*—Subject headings are assumed to refer to the whole of England, Great Britain or the United Kingdom unless otherwise stated.
- *Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales*—Material relating to the whole of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales is indexed under these headings.
- *Places within the UK*—Material about specific towns, areas and institutions is entered under the name of the specific town, area or institution.
- *Foreign countries*—Most material relating to foreign countries is collected under the name of that country. Some additional material may be found under the names of—groups of countries, areas within countries, geographical features, place names associated with particular issues, politicians and heads of state, international bodies, and institutions and companies operating in those countries.
- *EC/EU material*—General material about the European Union and European institutions as bodies is entered under 'European Union' and the named individual institutions. Material about what the Union and institutions are doing or propose to do is entered under various subject headings beginning 'EU' such as 'EU environmental policy'.

Parliamentary material and business

- *Material about Parliament*—This is indexed under 'Parliament', the names of the two Houses, the 'Palace of Westminster' and parts of the Parliamentary estate (such as 'Portcullis House').
- *Committees*—Material about committees is indexed under 'Committees', types of committee (such as 'Select committees') and the names of individual committees (such as 'Home Affairs Select Committee').
- *Parliamentary proceedings/procedures*—Material discussing these is indexed under the specific type of proceeding (such as 'Parliamentary questions' or 'Oral questions'), procedure (such as 'Calling of Members') or issue (such as 'Unparliamentary expressions').
- *Legislation*—Entries for Parliamentary proceedings on bills and statutory instruments are entered under their titles. Where the lead word of the bill or statutory instrument does not provide a full or clear indication of the subject there are additional subject entries when the bill or instrument is debated. For example, debates on the 'Child Support Pensions and Social Security Bill' have entries under 'Pensions' and 'Social security benefits' as well as under the title of the Bill.
- *Members' names*—These are given in the form by which the Member prefers to be known.
- *Speaker and Chair*—Contributions by the Speaker and deputies are brought together under the heading 'Speaker and deputies'. Contributions from the chair during Committees of the Whole House are brought together under 'Chairman of Committee of the Whole House'. Significant rulings and statements (as opposed to routine comments) are indicated by the sub-heading 'Rulings and statements' in both cases.

Cross references

- *See* references indicate that all the material has been entered under another heading.
- *See also* references indicate that additional information may be found under another heading.

REFERENCES

- References in the indexes are to columns rather than pages.
- References to debates, but not questions and petitions, are accompanied by the date of the item.
- There are separate sequences in Hansard for the material taken on the floor of the House, Westminster Hall sittings, written statements, written questions, ministerial corrections and petitions:
  - References consisting of a number by itself indicate material taken on the floor of the House.
  - References ending in 'wh' indicate Westminster Hall sittings.
  - References ending in 'ws' indicate written statements.
  - References ending in 'w' indicate written questions.
  - References ending in 'p' indicate written petitions.
  - References ending in 'mc' indicate ministerial corrections. (Where a volume number is given, the correction appears in a later volume).
- References under all headings except the names of Members contributing to Parliamentary business and the titles of legislation are listed in one numerical sequence irrespective of whether the material is taken on the floor of the House, is discussed at a Westminster Hall sitting, is a written statement or is a written question.
- References under the names of Members contributing to Parliamentary business and the titles of legislation are listed in numerical sequence under the following headings:
  - *Chamber Debates* (which includes interventions and points of order as well as significant contributions to debates);
  - *Westminster Hall Debates* (covering all debates held as part of the Westminster Hall sittings);
  - *Written Statements* (consisting of ministerial statements issued in writing); and
  - *Questions* (which includes all oral and written petitions);
  - *Petitions* (which includes all oral and written petitions).

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in connection with the progress of bills:

- 1R = First reading
- 2R = Second reading
- Com = Committee stage
- Rep = Report stage
- 3R = Third reading
- res = resolution
- amendt(s) = amendment(s)
- * = matter taken formally without debate or division
- (HL) = Bill starting in House of Lords

Parliamentary background

- The Parliamentary website at http://www.parliament.uk contains a range of information about Parliament and the full text of some Parliamentary papers and proceedings including Hansard.
- Information on current Parliamentary business is provided in the House of Commons Information Office *Weekly Information Bulletin*, available on the website and from The Stationery Office (020 7873 8499).
- Further information on Parliamentary proceedings and procedures is available from the House of Commons Information Office (020 7219 4272).

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